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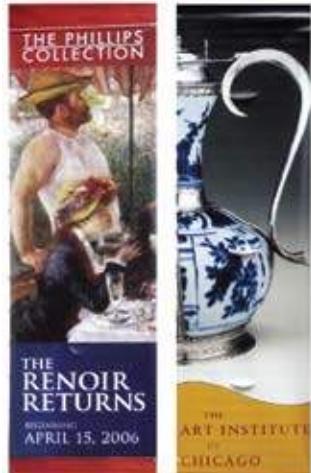


OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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INSIDE



Banner Art

Four years ago, an eight-foot-tall banner depicting Swedish ball bearings on a crimson field fluttered from a Manhattan light pole. Today, it hangs in Peter Knockstead's dining room in Washington.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...
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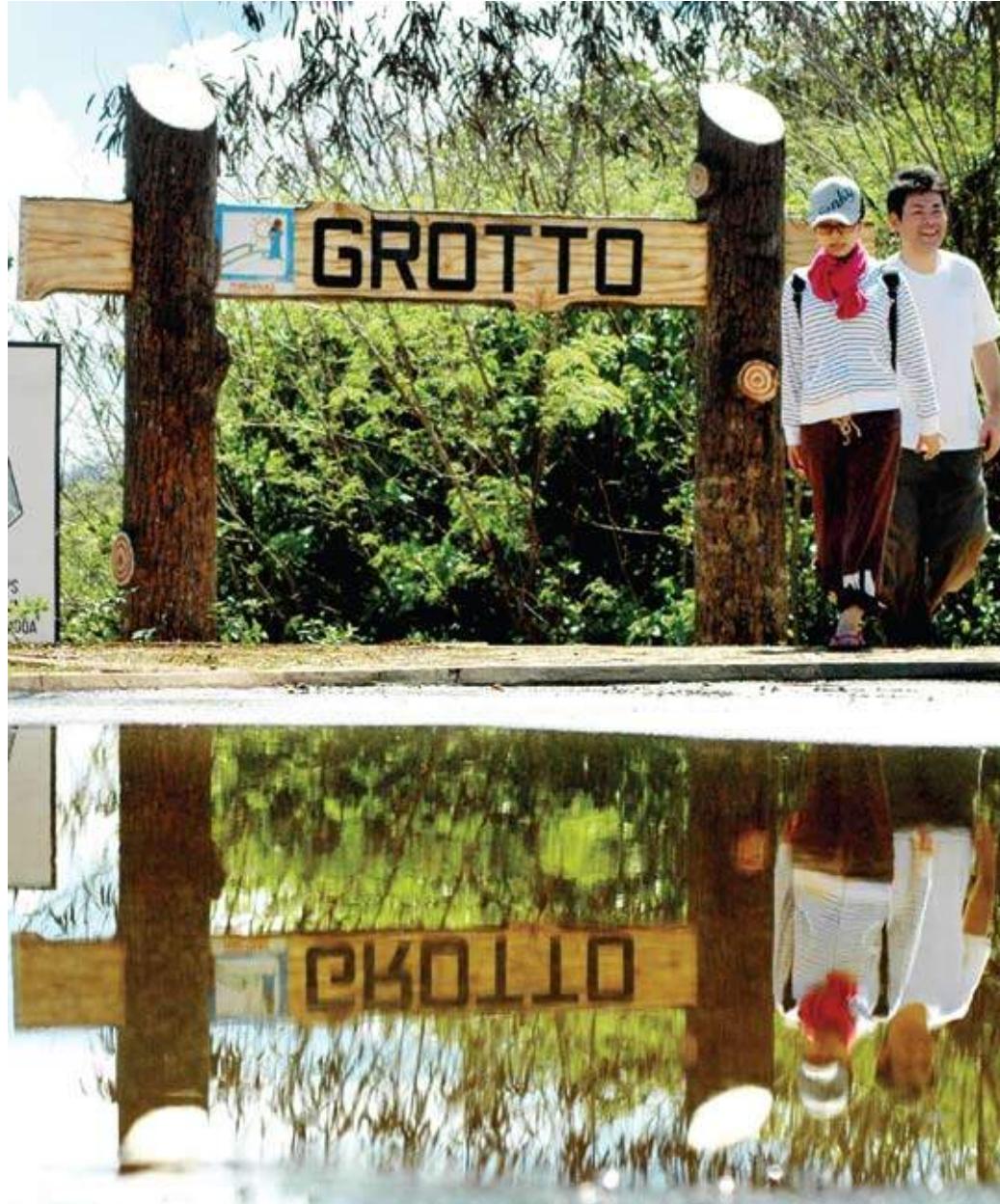
Freak Storms

A severe storm ripped through downtown Atlanta on Friday night, injuring several people and damaging skyscrapers, hotels and two major sports arenas that were filled with thousands of pro and college basketball fans.

NATION...Page 17

'Cabinet members should still be on their toes' PAGE 2
Rota DPW expects another budget cut in 2008. PAGE 5

MBA students top math contest



GROTTO TREKKERS

Tourists are reflected on a puddle of rainwater as they ascend from the 116-step staircase of the famous Grotto in Marpi yesterday. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, February 2008 visitor arrivals translate to a 5.88-percent increase to 40,222 from the 37,990 tourists that visited the Commonwealth in the same month last year.

Legal team mum on Miura's need for 'supply of medicine'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Besides stating that the 60-year-old Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura is doing fine in his detention cell, his legal team has been mum as to why he needs an

RELATED NEWS

Geragos seeks to quash warrant for Miura. PAGE 2

"adequate medicine supply."

Bruce Berline, one of Miura's three Saipan lawyers, and a translator visited the defendant

at the Department of Corrections Friday afternoon.

"He [Miura] is fine. He is good spirits...under the circumstances and he is doing okay," Berline told the media as he emerged from the DOC compound.

See MIURA on Page 4

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Two of the four students who will compete in this year's Mathcounts National Competition in Colorado are from the Marianas Baptist Academy.

Dong Hee Im and Sung Hoon Ha, both from MBA, dominated the individual countdown round and are the first two top winners of this year's state competition.

They will be joined by Saipan International School's Harry Jun and Mount Carmel School's Feng Lizama at this year's Mathcounts National Competition in Colorado on May 9, 2008.

See FOUR on Page 4

2 states consider guest-worker programs

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHOENIX (AP)—As a labor contractor in the nation's winter lettuce capital, Francisco Chavez struggles to hire enough workers to pick and package the produce.

Last year, ripe romaine sometimes went bad in the fields around Yuma, Ariz., because Chavez didn't have enough people to harvest the crop, which must be picked by hand. "That's my challenge—to get

the crews," he said.

Such complaints are becoming so common that lawmakers in Arizona and Colorado are considering creating their own guest-worker programs to attract more immigrant laborers. It's unclear whether states have the authority to adopt such measures, but legislators are tired of waiting for Congress to overhaul the immigration system—and they are taking matters into their own hands.

See LACK on Page 4

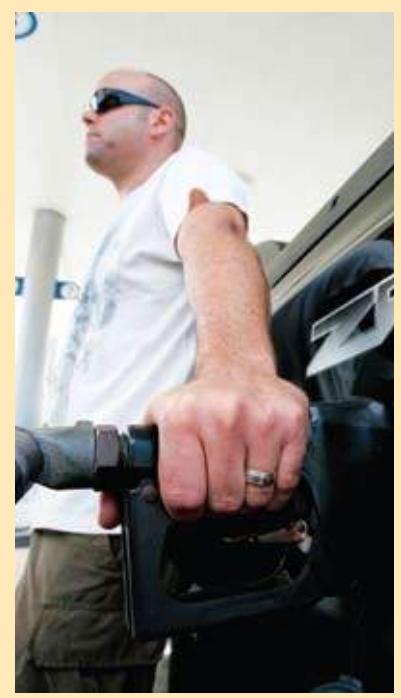
Maui drivers watch gas prices reach \$4

By JAYMES SONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WAILUKU, Hawaii (AP)—"Maui No Kai Oi" is a popular Hawaiian saying that means Maui is the best. Mike Sweeney recently moved to this idyllic island from Denver and was hit with the other side of living in paradise with his first visit to the gas pump: Maui is also No. 1 in gas prices.

See HIGH on Page 4

Mike Sweeney fills up his truck with gas on Tuesday, March 11, 2007, in Kahului, Hawaii.



Around the CNMI

'Cabinet members should still be on their toes'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

While the Fitial administration does not expect more major Cabinet changes, the governor's press secretary Charles P. Reyes said this shouldn't be a reason for appointees to slacken and not perform their duties at an optimum level.

"Although I mentioned that I do not expect major Cabinet changes, this does not mean that Cabinet members should feel complacent because the governor will still hold all Cabinet members accountable and monitor their performance to see whether they are on track to meet their department goals," Reyes said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial's spokesman reminded Cabinet members that the governor still has the prerogative to terminate their services at anytime and that their performances are now scrutinized more than ever, especially on their fiscal decisions now that there is a dearth in government resources to go around.

"The governor and lieutenant governor can make further Cabinet changes at any time, if necessary, so all of our Cabinet members have to be on their toes, performing well, achieving the administration's objectives for their departments, and keeping spending well under control," he said.

The Fitial administration last Thursday announced that it is not mulling any wholesale changes in the Cabinet in the heels of former congressman Clyde K. Norita's appointment as the new Commissioner for

the Department of Public Safety.

Reyes said he foresees only the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs post that needs to be filled after former DCCA Secretary Daisy Bier Villagomez opted to go back to the Northern Marianas College.

He said Villagomez's former deputy, Melvin Faisao, is now serving in an acting capacity over at DCCA and will do so until an appointment is made with Senate confirmation.

Aside from Norita's appointment to the DPS post,

the Fitial administration late Tuesday night also named Diego Songsong as the new Secretary of the Department of Public Works.

Norita previously served as the executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and he was also elected to the 14th CNMI Legislature.

He also served as an acting Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. He rose through the ranks as a career law enforcement professional, going from police officer I to the rank of major. Norita at-

tended numerous professional development conferences and law enforcement training sessions throughout his 20-year career at DPS.

Songsong, meanwhile, had been serving as deputy DPW Secretary prior to replacing Jose Demapan, who had resigned. Reyes said the Fitial administration is relying on DPW to process federal capital improvement projects in a timely and responsible manner.

Both Norita and Songsong will serve in acting capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

Geragos seeks to quash L.A. warrant for Miura

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A defense attorney filed a motion Friday seeking to throw out the Los Angeles arrest warrant for a Japanese businessman being held in Saipan in the 1980s murder of his wife, claiming that a new trial for Kazuyoshi Miura would be double jeopardy because he was already tried in Japan.

"Mr. Miura was tried and acquitted of murder and conspiracy to commit murder by the High Court of Japan," said the motion by high-profile attorney Mark Geragos. "That acquittal placed Mr. Miura 'once in jeopardy,' thereby entitling him to California's double jeopardy protections for this offense."

Miura, 60, was arrested last month in the U.S. territory of Saipan. Los Angeles authorities are seeking his extradition.

In 1981, he was shot in the leg

and his wife was shot in the head in Los Angeles. Kazumi Miura, 28, died the following year in Japan. Los Angeles police initially accepted Miura's story of being shot by robbers but later became convinced he conspired with someone to have his wife killed to collect life insurance.

Miura was convicted in Japan of murdering his wife, but that verdict was overturned by the country's high courts 10 years ago.

Geragos said in his motion that a complaint for extradition of Miura signed on Feb. 25 charges him with the same offense for which he has already been acquitted.

"The attempt to prosecute Mr. Miura a second time for the same offense is in direct violation of state law," said the motion.

"Clearly, the charges currently pending in California are based on the same acts as the conviction."

See GERAGOS on page 4



FSM government and SPC officials involved in this week's consultations on development plan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FSM and SPC link up on development plan

The government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community this week concluded a round of consultations aimed at developing a joint

country strategy between FSM and SPC. The strategy will outline FSM's development priorities and the services that SPC can provide in response over the next five years.

A team of 12 SPC staff led by Falani Aukuso, SPC Deputy Director-General based in Suva, took part in meetings with government counterparts and representatives from several sectors.

"The joint country strategy between FSM and SPC will be firmly based on FSM's strategic development plan for 2004–2023," said Aukuso. "This ap-

See FSM on page 4

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Judge nixes reducing driver's sentence in fatal crash

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has refused to reduce the 18-month prison sentence imposed on a driver of a pickup truck that slammed into a utility pole, killing one of the passengers.

Lizama ruled that punishing

Raymond B. Blas with a sentence of six months for reckless driving and 12 months for driving under the influence of alcohol is justified.

"The court's goal with the sentence is to send a strong message that the defendant's acts and conduct in this situation deserve punishment," said the judge in denying Blas' motion

for a reduction of sentence.

Lizama said the original imposition of a five-year sentence was handed down because the DUI charge included grave bodily harm and was more than fair.

The court previously suspended all but 17 months of that sentence.

"While the court understands the position of the defense, the

court carefully considered its sentence and believes its initial imposition to be fair," Lizama said.

He said he has no reason to believe that Blas will not be paroled in six months if he exhibits good behavior while in prison.

Blas, according to the judge, may file a motion to shorten his probation upon his release and probation may be for the duration of not more than one year.

Court and police records show that on Dec. 25, 2003, Blas and four friends consumed two cases of beer at a beach on Saipan. The group left the beach in a truck that George Castro drove.

Along the way, Blas convinced Castro to let him drive, at which point, Blas got behind the wheel. Passengers in the truck testified that they traveled at an excessive rate of speed, swerving in and out of the driving lane.

Eventually, Blas lost control of the truck and slammed into a utility pole, throwing the occupants from the vehicle. Herman Maratita, a passenger, died.

The Attorney General's Office charged Blas with vehicular homicide, reckless driving, and DUI.

In November 2004, the jury heard the vehicular homicide charge, while the trial court heard the reckless driving and DUI.

The jury returned a verdict acquitting Blas on the vehicular homicide charge. But the trial court found him guilty of reckless driving and DUI.

Blas appealed. He argued that

there is insufficient evidence to find that he drove the truck, and that he did so while under the influence of alcohol.

Blas first argued that he was not the driver of the truck during the crash. He points to Police Officer Andrea Ozawa's testimony, who stated that the individual farthest from the accident scene was most likely a passenger and not the truck's driver.

Blas claimed that he was thrown farthest from the truck, and therefore, not the driver. In August 2007, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed the conviction.

The justices ruled that there is sufficient evidence to support that Blas drove the truck under the influence of alcohol on the night of the crash.

"While there is no direct evidence of Blas' BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) at the time of the accident, there is ample testimony to support the finding that he was drinking heavily before the accident," said the opinion penned by associate justice Alejandro C. Castro and concurred by chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justice John A. Manglona.

Healey appointed Horizon Guam general manager

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Poised for growth spurred by U.S. military expansion in the region, Horizon Lines, Inc. last week appointed Hugh Healey as general manager of its Guam operations.

"With the announced plans of the U.S. military to improve infrastructure and build new facilities in Guam, including military housing, a high school, an elementary school, a hospital and a new runway at Anderson Air Force Base, we anticipate a burgeoning growth of trade in the region," said Hawaii and Micronesia Division senior vice president and general manager Mar Labrador.

"Hugh Healey's transportation and business education, along with his diverse company experience, will allow us to continue to grow in Guam and the surrounding Micronesia region under his leadership," Labrador added.

Healey joined Horizon Lines' predecessor company, Sea-Land Service, Inc., in 1997 and has since had diverse experience, including Puerto Rico Logistics manager and director of military and government sales. Most recently, he was Southeast Regional sales manager.

Healey is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., with a B.S. in Marine Transportation. He earned an MBA from Pepperdine University.

Training for water operators

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold training for all Water Operators on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

This training will prepare water operators for the Water Operators Online Examination.

Topics to be covered are: Operation and maintenance of Treatment and Distribution Equipment; Lab Processes; and Compliance (Regulations).

There is no fee for the training and it is open to both certified and non-certified water operators. However, you must contact the Safe Drinking Water Program at DEQ by calling 664-8500 to reserve a seat.

The class will be held from 8am until 11:30am at the Aqua Resort Club Rey Lounge on Wednesday, March 19. (DEQ)

The U.S. Navy, Marine Corp. and Air Force all plan expansion in Guam due to the island's strategic location. More than 8,000 U.S. Marines and their families are being transferred to Guam from Okinawa, Japan, driving trade demand for everything from building materials to household goods and groceries.

In preparation, Horizon Lines has added five new container vessels to the Guam trade as part of the company's long-term fleet enhancement program. The fleet expansion has offered Horizon Lines first arrival advantage in the market. Last year, Horizon Lines added 250 flat-racks

in its Pacific service, where this special shipping equipment is particularly useful for construction and oversized machinery shippers.

Healey's promotion comes at the heels of Horizon Lines increasing its fuel surcharge a whopping 2.25 percentage points to a record 33.75 percent for ocean shipments between the mainland and Hawaii, Guam, and Micronesia.

Horizon Lines is the nation's leading domestic ocean shipping and integrated logistics company comprised of two primary operating subsidiaries. Horizon Lines, LLC, operates a fleet of

21 U.S.-flag containerships and 5 port terminals linking the continental United States with Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Micronesia and Puerto Rico. Horizon Logistics, LLC, offers customized logistics solutions to shippers from a suite of transportation and distribution management services designed by Aero Logistics, information technology developed by Horizon Services Group and intermodal trucking and warehousing services provided by Sea-Logix. Horizon Lines, Inc. is based in Charlotte, NC, and trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol HRZ.

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Four to represent NMI at nat'l Mathcounts

From Page 1

MBA's Manatsu Omari came in fifth place, followed by Sung Eun An, MBA; Ji Hoon Choi, Calvary Christian Academy, Laurence Jason Camacho, MCS; Jimin Ryu, SIS; and John Aglubat, Hopwood Jr. High School.

As fifth placer, Omari automatically assumes the role of alternate, and will take the spot if one of the final four cannot make it to this year's competition.

At least 90 students from both public and private schools in the CNMI competed in the state

Miura in good spirits under the circumstances—lawyer

From Page 1

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* as to why Miura has been taking medicine, the lawyer refused to talk about the issue.

"I can't comment on anything like that. It's private and personal," Berline said.

The lawyer said the purpose of his visit was to give Miura an update on what's happening in his extradition case and check on him to make sure he is doing fine in jail.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman recently ordered DOC to consider providing extensive visiting privileges for Miura's family

competition.

Mathcounts state coordinator Marth C. Camacho said that 150 students competed in the chapter competition, "but this particular competition has determined the four students to represent the CNMI in the national competition."

MBA's Team-A had also topped the team competition with a score of 24.5. Calvary Christian Academy Team B came in second with 15.74 points and the school's Team A also placed with a score of 14.75 points. Saipan International School's Team A came in

fourth with 14.25 points.

In the overall rankings, the top individual performers were MBA's Sung Hoon Ham, first place; Don Hee Im from MBA, second; Feng Lizama from MCS, third; Harry Jun from SIS, fourth; Manatsu Omori from MBA, fifth; Ji Hoon Choi from CCA, sixth; Laurence Jason Camacho from MCS, seventh; Jimin Ryu from SCS, eighth; John Aglubat from HJS, ninth; and Sung Eun An from MBA, tenth.

The 14th Annual CNMI Mathcount was organized by EFC Engineers and Architects

Corporation.

With Camacho are chapter coordinator Guadalupe Sabino; treasurer, Rita L. Chargualaf; and secretary, Jennifer D. Sablan.

This year's sponsors were EFC Engineers & Architects Corporation; Bridge Capital, LLC; Chong's Corporation; Duty Free Shoppers Galleria; Transamerica Corporation; Deloitte & Touche; Winzler & Kelly; National Office Supply; UMDA; Joeten Charitable Foundation; Pacific Telecommunications Inc.; Subway Investments; Coca-Cola Beverage Company; Foremost; and Rep. Ralph Torres.

closed Friday that he talked with Mark Geragos earlier that day.

"The motion is pretty much ready. Like I said we are working on the affidavits," said Berline, referring to the motion to dismiss on grounds of double jeopardy that Geragos will file. Geragos serves as Miura's California counsel. *See related story on Page 2.*

The lawyer said they are hoping to complete within the next couple of days the affidavits of a law professor in Japan.

"We'll be working over the weekend," said Berline, who refused to divulge details about their conversation with Geragos.

Geragos will use the affidavits to support Miura's double jeopardy argument in California. The defendant's legal team on Saipan is also expected to use the same affidavits in Miura's petition for writ of habeas corpus.

Local authorities arrested Miura at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 as he and his current wife were about

to depart for Narita, Japan. He was arrested for the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, in Los Angeles 27 years ago.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 for the killing. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

The lawyer said they are hoping to complete within the next couple of days the affidavits of a law professor in Japan.

"I'd say to the states: 'You can't have it both ways,'" Reyes said.

Kris Kobach, a law professor at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and an advocate of expanding state and local immigration efforts, said the proposals could never hold up in court. He said the Supreme Court has ruled that states cannot impose additional conditions on immigrants who are working legally in the United States.

Neither measure has come to a vote before the full House or Senate.

Immigration law experts said states don't have the foreign-policy power to negotiate guest-worker agreements, but Congress could grant them permission to do so.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes of Texas, a former Border Patrol boss who supports revamping the nation's guest-worker programs, said it's unlikely states would get the necessary permission to arrange their own foreign labor.

He also said it's ironic that Arizona and Colorado are so ea-

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High gas prices shocks consumers

From Page 1

"After seeing the total, I won't be smiling," Sweeney said as he watched the numbers on the Chevron pump spin faster than a slot machine.

The pump finally stopped at \$97.20, which put 24.5 gallons in his Chevrolet Avalanche.

He was elated about living on Maui and being reunited with his black, super-size pickup truck, which just arrived from Colorado, but he wasn't so thrilled about paying nearly \$4 for a gallon of regular.

While the price of oil climbs above \$110 a barrel, most Americans dread the day they will have to pay \$4. On this tropical island and a few stations in California, \$4 gas has already arrived, straining the pocketbooks of residents and businesses.

Maui is on the verge of becoming first area in the nation to average \$4 for a gallon of regular. The average price in Wailuku reached \$3.934 on Thursday, the highest price in AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report. At several stations, it was a penny shy of \$4. In the remote coastal town of Hana, it was around \$4.40 a gallon.

"Outrageous. Completely outrageous," said Janet Carone, of Wailuku.

The high price to get around has hurt many families, like the Carones. They're coping by driving less, carpooling or working more.

"It has a big effect because our housing is high, our food is high, and the gas prices just make it worse," she said.

Other than AAA, perhaps no one on Maui tracks local gas prices better than Deok Lee, owner of Airport Taxi. He maintains a detailed record of gas expenses using Excel spreadsheets on his laptop.

In just nine days, Lee had spent \$300 to fuel his Toyota Sienna van. Like his drivers, the more Lee pays for gas, the less money he brings home. His pay shrinks by the day - and by the gallon.

"Crazy," he said about the prices. "Ridiculous."

Fuel cost has more than tripled since he took over the business in 1999, and it's forcing him to consider trading his van, which costs \$80 to fill, for a smaller four-cylinder car.

"Unfortunately, it's going to take away some comfort for the customers. But you gotta do what you gotta do," he said.

Lee expects many cabbies will be forced out of business if fuel prices keep rising.

Chuck Gamarata, who operates the only limousine taxi on the island, is forced to work longer hours to compensate for the gas prices. He's still taking home about \$10 less each day.

"You add that up over a year's period, that's thousands of dollars," he said. "It hurts. It hurts bad."

Other businesses are also feeling pinched.

Todd Winn, co-owner of North Shore Explorers, has been hit hard since launching the tour company in September. It takes 150 gallons of diesel, at \$4.20 a gallon, to fill up his 30-foot rigid hull inflatable boat, which gets about a mile per gallon. It also costs more than \$100 to fill up the Ford F-350 to tow it.

FSM

From Page 2

approach to delivering services to members really focuses on national needs."

"We're also finding that we have to work closely with national counterparts to ensure that our work plans are consistent with their national development plans. This is helping to ensure that our services are provided at the right level and at the right time. They can also be harmonized wherever possible with assistance provided by other development partners."

Before the visit, SPC drafted a profile outlining FSM's development strategies and development challenges. The profile includes a summary of the services (worth US \$2.4 million) that SPC has delivered to FSM since 2005. These services cover areas such as fisheries and maritime programs, public health, land resources, statistics and demography, and human development issues.

Supplementing FSM's technical capacity, and providing train-

ing workshops or attachments to build capacity are among the activities identified in the consultations. Some assistance will take the form of cash grants for research or procurement of essential equipment.

The joint strategy is expected to be ready for tabling at the upcoming FSM donor roundtable meeting in July this year. The strategy also identifies partnerships with FSM counterparts and other development partners such as World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Forum Fisheries Agency, and activities that will be implemented with NGOs and community-based organizations.

In 2006, SPC formally established a Northern Pacific office based in Pohnpei to facilitate communication with its members in this part of the region and enable better delivery of its services. Together with FSM counterpart staff, SPC staff based in the regional office will undertake periodic monitoring of the strategy and its implementation to ensure it remains relevant and forward looking. (SPC)

GERAGOS

From Page 2

tion and acquittal in Japan," the motion said.

Los Angeles County district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi

Gibbons said prosecutors have told Geragos that the Los Angeles court does not have jurisdiction to hear his motion.

"We believe Mr. Miura must be returned to Los Angeles before the court here has any jurisdiction to hear

matters in this case," Gibbons said.

The Saipan court has jurisdiction and so Geragos' motion is premature, she said.

Geragos' motion sought a hearing on March 24. Gibbons said prosecutors would

appear in court and say that the motion cannot proceed until Miura is in custody in Los Angeles.

Geragos also claimed that the arrest warrant lacked probable cause to bring Miura to the United States.

Supplementing FSM's technical capacity, and providing train-

Rota DPW expects another 10 pct. budget cut in 2008

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Department of Public Works said they are expecting another 10 percent budget cut this year.

Resident director Martin S. Sablan said the DPW is unable to operate at full capacity on a budget that has been "severely cut" and is currently expecting an additional 10 percent cut this year.

"DPW's current budget is scarcely able to support the main responsibilities of the de-

partment and yet our department does its duty, without complaint for the benefit and good of the island of Rota and its people," Sablan said.

He added that unless DPW receives adequate funding, the department is simply unable to operate at the capacity desired by the current administration and the public.

"DPW is doing all that its budget allows it to do, and is asking for the cooperation, understanding, and support of all government agencies and the general public," Sablan said.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Representatives of the Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety Division, Fire Division, Fish and Wildlife, CNMI Emergency Management Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy, gather at the Forbidden Island in Kagman Friday morning for the search and rescue operation exercise.

NMI hosts search-and-rescue training

Federal and local agencies that make up Search and Rescue Group CNMI met on Thursday and Friday on Saipan in a continuing effort to share information and practice rescue skills.

This week's focus was on land-based search-and-rescue.

Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, CNMI Department of Public Safety, the CNMI Emergency Management Office, CNMI Fish and Wildlife, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority came together for training on Thursday and a field exercise on Friday.

Thursday's training was primarily conducted by the Department of Public Safety.

By conducting periodic training and field exercises, SAR Group CNMI is able to

improve rescue coordination and response times in order to save lives.

This was SAR Group CNMI's fifth exercise since they began in June 2006.

U.S. Coast Guard responsibilities in the Marianas differ from those in the continental United States: In Guam and the CNMI, Coast Guard Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam bears responsibility for coordinating both inland and maritime search-and-rescue. In the continental United States, the U.S. Air Force coordinates inland SAR.

JRSC Guam relies on local and federal partners to conduct land and air inland SAR response and assumes a communications and coordination role to ensure efficient operations when multiple agencies are involved in a case. (USCG)

Labor Processing resumes regular hours

Effective Monday, March 17, 2008, Labor Processing windows will be open from 8am until noon and 1pm to 5pm.

"You may transact all business during those hours, except for application follow-ups, which will be entertained on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3pm to 5pm (limit 10 inquiries per customer).

The amount of \$50,500 was appropriated for Rota DPW this year. It was signed into law in May 2006.

According to Sablan, the funds appropriated was made during his administration and that majority of those funds were used to pay outstanding rental expenses (which were not covered by FEMA) for equipment rented to clear debris after Typhoon Pongsona.

"The remaining portions of the funds were used to purchase diesel fuel for heavy equipment utilized in the maintenance of the landfill," Sablan said.

In the end, Sablan said, funds were not sufficient to construct an uploading ramp or make other improvements.

He added that the funds were never intended to pay for equipment and were not lost or misused.

"All expenditures of government agencies are public information and can be accessed by a simple phone call," Sablan said.

"We must work together and do our part to find and share resources, think creatively, and work constructively to help our island community," Sablan said.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Keep vaccinating

Despite many studies discrediting its views, a vocal group of parents and lobbyists insist that vaccines cause autism, a disorder characterized by impaired social, emotional and communications skills. Those making the argument present heart-wrenching stories before courts and the media in the hope that someone, somewhere, will believe their theories and use them to cure their children. A recent case seems to have added fuel to their fire, but it should not dissuade parents from giving their children life-saving vaccines.

In the case, a 1 1/2-year-old girl suffered a fever and other adverse reactions after receiving vaccine shots. Over the next few months, her brain function regressed, and she developed symptoms of autism spectrum disorder. Government officials have agreed to compensate her family because, they said, the vaccines had aggravated a previously unknown underlying mitochondrial disorder, a rare condition that can deprive the brain of energy.

Anti-vaccine groups have cited the case as evidence that vaccines cause autism, despite public health officials', clinicians' and researchers' emphatic statements otherwise. For over a decade, activists have been arguing that vaccines, and particularly a mercury-containing preservative used in some vaccines, cause autism. This theory is largely promoted because autism symptoms usually appear around the age when children are first immunized. Since 2001, however, no vaccines (except some flu vaccines) routinely recommended for young children have been manufactured with the mercury preservative. Since then, autism rates have not slowed. Rather than abandoning their suspicions, some parents now implicate other aspects of vaccination, such as the simultaneous administering of multiple shots, another practice that researchers say is safe.

The science behind this recent case is tenuous, as there haven't been any studies that clearly prove causation between vaccines and mitochondrial disorders or between mitochondrial disorders and autism. Some researchers argue that the girl's mitochondrial disorder would have been triggered anyway by another stressor such as a common illness or fever, and may have become more severe had she contracted any of the dangerous diseases against which she was vaccinated. These diseases, after all, still afflict American children. Just last month in San Diego, a measles outbreak occurred among unvaccinated children.

Autism is a tragic disorder, but no one knows what causes it or even how to test for it biologically. Given how little is known about autism—and the fact that no science has been able to connect it to vaccines—parents should continue to protect their children against known, preventable risks: the deadly diseases that vaccines keep at bay.

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Is home-grown terrorism on the horizon?

How will the next president deal with the terrorist crisis of 2010-11? No, not those terrorists. I mean the domestic extremists who, history suggests, are due for a resurgence.

Forecasting a wave of political extremism might sound like apocalyptic prophecy, but it has a sound basis in American political history. In November, it is possible that a liberal Democratic administration will be elected to replace the long-established conservative Republican leadership. Such a transition has occurred three times in the past 80 years, in 1932, 1960 and 1992. (For various reasons, the defeat of Gerald Ford in 1976 does not fit the model.) In each period, within two to three years, the nation had a frightening upsurge of radical right-wing, paramilitary movements.

In each case, these angry movements spun off terrorist cells that plotted assassinations and bombings. Significantly, these upsurges characterize only the shift from conservative to liberal administrations. Paramilitaries remain few in number and marginal under GOP administrations.

After Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933, an array of far-right movements borrowed the styles and imagery of European fascism. The most influential group was the Silver Shirts, which mixed violent anti-Semitism with New Age-style occultism. By the end of the decade, the pro-Nazi Christian Front was arming for a coup d'état in which it planned to assassinate New Deal politicians, bomb East Coast cities and massacre Jews.

Paramilitary movements again flourished after the election of John F. Kennedy, when the far right was convinced that the administration was under thorough communist influence and some militants formed an armed insurgent movement that pledged to overthrow a Red federal regime. These militants, who adopted the historic name "Minutemen," built up arsenals on a terrifying scale, and their propaganda sheets listed politicians whose heads were "in the cross-hairs" of a sniper's rifle. Some Minutemen funded their operations by bank robberies, others allied with a booming Ku Klux Klan that boasted tens of thousands of active members.

If these older movements never succeeded in putting their most extreme plans into action, the militia movement of the Clinton years left a stronger mark. By 1994, an estimated quarter of a million Americans were affiliated with "patriot" militias that armed and trained to resist a left-liberal "new world order." As before, some activists drifted into dangerous extremism. Some linked up with racist and anti-Jewish movements. When terrorists struck the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, no doubt remained as to just how perilous such links could be. Some fanatics had even further-reaching ambitions, seeking to obtain bio-

By PHILIP JENKINS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Jenkins is the author of Decade of Nightmares: The End of the 1960s and the Making of Eighties America and God's Continent: Christianity, Islam and Europe's Religious Crisis.



logical weapons. "The Turner Diaries," the novel that became the era's manual of the ultra-right, ends with the hero piloting a nuclear-armed suicide flight against the Pentagon.

It's not mysterious historical cycles but perceived dangers, and government responses, that explain these recurrent upsurges of extremism. Over the last century, conservative administrations have presented themselves as standing firm against external threats. Incoming liberal governments may believe that such threats are exaggerated, or at least choose to focus on domestic priorities.

In the 1930s, as in the 1960s and 1990s, conservative critics painted liberal administrations as not just naive or weak but actively treacherous, plotting to sell out the country to its enemies. Facing such a threat—however imaginary—radicals resorted to the age-old American tradition of taking up arms to resist tyranny. Witness the very name of the Minutemen.

Could it happen again? Imagine a scenario in which a Democratic administration withdrew from Iraq, and conservatives denounced the betrayal of sacrifices made by the armed forces. Then consider all the personnel who have cycled through private security companies in Iraq and elsewhere, whose knowledge of military organization and weaponry could make them an effective nucleus of a new militia movement. If a disintegrating economy were fueling popular fear and unrest, the elements would be in place.

Those are a lot of ifs. But anti-government activism may be less worrisome than the means that could be used to combat it. Democratic administrations repeatedly used the paramilitary threat to justify the expansion of law enforcement powers. And today, the government's long experience of intrusive surveillance powers and questionable interrogation techniques easily could be turned against domestic as well as foreign enemies. Who is prepared to criticize official excesses during a terrorism panic?

History may or may not repeat itself following the 2008 election. But we should not be surprised when debates over terrorism and civil liberties start, quite literally, to come home.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Quality of US life is the real recession

The news media and the government are fixated on the fact that the U.S. economy may be headed into a recession—defined as two or more successive quarters of declining gross domestic product.

The situation is actually much worse. By some measures of economic performance, the United States has been in a recession since 1975—a recession in quality of life, or well-being.

How can this be? One first needs to understand what GDP measures to see why it is not an appropriate gauge of our national well-being.

GDP measures the total market value of all goods and services produced in a country in a given period. But it includes only those goods and services traded for money.

It also adds everything together, without discerning desirable, well-being-enhancing economic activity from undesirable, well-being-reducing activity. An oil spill, for example, increases GDP because someone has to clean it up, but it obviously detracts from well-being. More crime, more sickness, more war, more pollution, more fires, storms and pestilence are all potentially positives for the GDP because they can spur an increase in economic activity.

GDP also ignores activity that may enhance well-being but is outside the market. The unpaid work of parents caring for their children at home doesn't show up in GDP, but if they decide to work outside the home and pay for child care, GDP suddenly increases. And even though \$1 in income means a lot more to the poor than to the rich, GDP takes no account of income distribution.

In short, GDP was never intended to be a measure of citizens' welfare—and it functions poorly as such. Yet it is used as a surrogate appraisal of national well-being in far too many circumstances.

The shortcomings of GDP are well known and several research-

ers have proposed alternatives that address them, including William Nordhaus' and James Tobin's Measure of Economic Welfare, developed in 1972; Herman Daly's and John Cobb's Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare, developed in 1989; and the Redefining Progress think tank's more recent variation, the Genuine Progress Indicator.

Although these alternatives—which, like GDP, are measured in monetary terms—are not perfect and need more research and refinement, they are much better approximations to a measure of true national well-being.

The formula for calculating GPI, for instance, starts with personal consumption expenditures, a major component of GDP, but makes several crucial adjustments. First, it accounts for income distribution. It then adds positive contributions that GDP ignores, such as the value of household and volunteer work. Finally, it subtracts things that are well-being-reducing, such as the loss of leisure time and the costs of crime, commuting and pollution.

While the U.S. GDP has steadily increased since 1950 (with the occasional recession), GPI peaked about 1975 and has been relatively flat or declining ever since. That's consistent with life-satisfaction surveys, which also show flat or dropping scores over the last several decades.

This is a very different picture of the economy from the one we normally read about, and it requires different policy responses. We are now in a period of what Daly—a former World Bank economist now at the University of Maryland—has called “uneconomic growth,” in which further growth in economic activity (that is, GDP) is actually reducing national well-being.

How can we get out of this 33-year downturn in quality of life? Several policies have been suggested that might be thought of as a national quality-of-life stimulus package.

By ROBERT COSTANZA

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Costanza is the director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont.



To start, the U.S. needs to make national well-being—not increased GDP—its primary policy goal, funding efforts to better measure and report it. There's already been some movement in this direction around the world. Bhutan, for example, recently made “gross national happiness” its explicit policy goal. Canada is developing an Index of Well-being, and the Australian Treasury considers increasing “real well-being,” rather than mere GDP, its primary goal.

Once Americans' well-being becomes the basis for measuring our success, other reforms should follow. We should tax “bads” (carbon emissions, depletion of natural resources) rather than “goods” (labor, savings, investment). We should recognize the negative effects of growing income disparities and take steps to address them.

International trade also will have to be reformed so that environmental protection, labor rights and democratic self-determination are not subjugated to the blind pursuit of increased GDP.

But the most important step may be the first one: Recognizing that the U.S. is mired in a 33-year-old quality-of-life recession and that our continued national focus on growing GDP is blinding us to the way out.

My Lai, 40 years later

Forty years ago Sunday, American soldiers conducted a helicopter assault against Pinkville, their name for a string of tiny villages that were a staging ground for Viet Cong guerrillas. The soldiers were told by their officers that the only Vietnamese they would encounter were VC combatants who might pose as civilians. In time, most Americans would come to know Pinkville by its other name: My Lai.

Over the next few hours that day, some soldiers engaged in an orgy of violence, herding unarmed villagers—women, babies, old men—into clearings and ditches where they were machine-gunned. “It was a Nazi kind of thing,” one of the men would later admit.

Pfc. Paul Meadlo was told to guard a group of women and children. His lieutenant, William Calley, a baby-faced college dropout, told Meadlo, “You know what to do with them,” according to Meadlo's testimony at Calley's court-martial.

Calley returned a few minutes later and demanded, “How come they're not dead?” Meadlo testified that he said he didn't know he was supposed to kill them. “I want them dead,” Calley said, who then backed off a few yards and began shooting the prisoners. Calley ordered Meadlo to fire, and the private—by this time crying hysterically—joined in.

A picture taken by Army photographer Ronald Haeberle shows a terrified cluster of villagers: a middle-aged woman cries and wrings her hands; a young mother holds a child of about 3 on her hip. Another girl, 5 or 6 years old, tries to hide behind an adult; her tiny face is twisted, hysterical.

“Guys were about to shoot these people,” Haeberle later testified. “I yelled, ‘Hold it,’ and shot my picture. As I walked away, I heard M-16s open up. From the corner of my eye I saw bodies

falling, but I didn't turn to look.”

As many as 500 civilians were murdered in a few hours at My Lai. When some soldiers later complained, commanders conducted and quickly closed a window-dressing investigation. Eventually, a former soldier with a tortured conscience began writing letters to military and congressional leaders. When news of the incident broke, the public was shocked, and soon the outrage focused on Calley, the harmless-looking lieutenant. Many people thought him a scapegoat, a victim of the antiwar movement's plot to destroy America.

Calley's simple response to the charges was that he was following orders—the same one used by the Nazis two decades earlier.

Calley's commander, Capt. Ernest L. Medina, was charged with murder but was acquitted. The case against the lieutenant was stronger, and in 1971, a military court convicted Calley of 22 counts of murder and sentenced him to life in prison. President Nixon commuted his sentence to house arrest, and Calley was later paroled after serving 3 1/2 years.

What are we to make of this dark anniversary?

One often hears the old saw about people who don't remember history being condemned to relive it. But, collectively at least, we don't forget history. Instead, we often simplify, turning our most complex problems into a stark choice. Take the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for example. Although more and more people now see Iraq, at least, as a lost cause of our own making, there are still those who reduce it to only two options: You are either a patriot or a scoundrel, a supporter of the troops or a danger to the republic.

Yet a full accounting of what happened at Pinkville shows there were heroes among the villains. Some soldiers committed murder at My Lai, but others refused to follow what were clearly

By ED RUGGERO

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Ruggero, a former soldier and military historian, is the author, most recently, of *The First Men In: U.S. Paratroopers and the Fight to Save D-Day*.



illegal orders. Hugh Thompson Jr., a Georgia-born helicopter pilot, landed amid the carnage that day and snatched a handful of civilians from certain death. He was awarded the Soldier's Medal for bravery, but not until 1998; and Pentagon bureaucrats, still afraid of publicity, tried to hand him the medal in a private meeting, with no media present. Thompson, displaying the same moral courage he showed in 1968, demanded a public ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

So if we can find some good even in the worst of war, such as in My Lai, that should put the lie to thinking of war in simplistic, black-and-white terms. On this anniversary we should remember that we can still “lose” wars by forgetting that we aren't always the good guys. We lose them when we can't muster the courage to confront our own worst selves. We lose them when we stick our veterans into simple categories: well-adjusted or crazy. We lose wars when we sanitize them; when we create myths that lack the obscenity and evil of the real thing.

And when we “lose” a war this way, it makes it easier to start the next one.

The contradictions of being Eliot Spitzer

By DAN JANISON

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Give the man this much credit: As ill-mannered, overprivileged and impatient as Eliot Spitzer has been in his life, he does possess the kind of mind that explores both sides of a situation.

The soon-to-be-former-governor found himself in hot water last summer after his aides directed New York state police to create records reconstructing the out-of-town trips of his political nemesis, Sen. Joseph Bruno.

So now we learn Spitzer went out of town—presumably with state police—and got into the biggest trouble of his life, evidently without any help from Bruno or the reconstructions of any state records.

Part of the logic in this tawdry drama seems to be that if you're going to suspect someone else of breaking rules, why not break them yourself? After all, it's you doing it, not the other guy.

In his earlier role as attorney general, Spitzer became famous

nailing private business executives with their own e-mails and following their own money transfers. Once or twice he even inveigled against businesses that were nothing more than call-girl rings.

So Spitzer used text messages and phones and money transfers in a way that alerted bank employees—to do business with a firm that adds up to nothing more than a call-girl ring.

It is as if Ken Starr had been caught with an intern.

Spitzer not long ago projected himself as the state's great consumer advocate.

Yet the evidence so far suggests he was paying more than \$4,000 for a one-nighter with a hooker. Perhaps someday he will spin this as a pro-labor gesture. But it hardly stands as a win for the consumer movement.

Once Spitzer made headlines driving a hard bargain with defendants and targets of his investigations, squeezing them in ways that involved embarrassing publicity.

Today he makes the opposite kind of headlines, as his lawyers apparently talk with white-collar authorities who presumably are trying to squeeze him as they see fit.

Yes, we have seen the Alan Hevesi, the Jimmy Swaggerts and the Sol Wachtlers of the world brought down from high positions in scandals. Yet the Spitzer case has an exceptional feel.

One reason is speed. He managed to destroy himself in record time, just a year and 10 weeks into his governorship. Spitzer was the one who boasted in one of his more famous phone calls that, as the personification of a steamroller, he'd accomplished more in weeks than other governors had in years.

Other unique features of Spitzer's rapid fall: The thoroughness with which he set himself up, having spoken so much of credibility, legality, and integrity—and taking a prosecutor's stance on civil liberties.

During the strange and opaque lawyer's summation that he delivered against himself on Monday, Spitzer said: “I have acted in a way that violates my obligation to my family, and that violates my or any sense of right and wrong.”

We can probably take his word for that much.

Janison is a Newsday political columnist.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲83° ▾75°

▲84° ▾76°

▲84° ▾76°

▲85° ▾74°

▲83° ▾75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▾78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▾77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▾72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▾74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▾75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲75 ▾57
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲56 ▾38
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▾69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▾71
London	Rain	▲54 ▾43
Los Angeles	Thunderstorms	▲60 ▾46
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▾76
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲93 ▾76
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▾68
New York	Cloudy	▲45 ▾31
Osaka	Cloudy	▲58 ▾37
Paris	Rain	▲53 ▾37
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▾40
Rome	Cloudy	▲63 ▾48
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▾35
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▾42
Seoul	Sunny	▲53 ▾34
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▾45
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲46 ▾32

Tides

Saipan Harbor		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
4:56AM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet	Today	6:24AM	6:27PM	Today 1:30PM 2:57AM*
9:29AM Today	Low Tide: 1.4 Feet	Monday	6:23AM	6:28PM	Monday 2:31PM 3:45AM*
1:49PM Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet	Tuesday	6:23AM	6:28PM	Tuesday 3:28PM 4:27AM*
10:01PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet	Wednesday	6:22AM	6:28PM	Wednesday 4:22PM 5:06AM*
		Thursday	6:21AM	6:28PM	Thursday 5:13PM 5:42AM*

*Following Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily Nagoya

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap

and Koror

CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6

CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror

CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily

PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline ETD ETA Frequency

Guam-Rota

FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily

FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily

FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily

FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily

FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm Daily

FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily

FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily

FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily

FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am Daily

FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am Daily

FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily

FRE 112 11:05

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30-7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Kohlerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonsage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service

(Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9:11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6:30pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9:10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu
Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more
info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Salipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Salipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm-9pm
Monday: 8 pm-10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Salipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Salipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chukse Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Aftena St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
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7779.

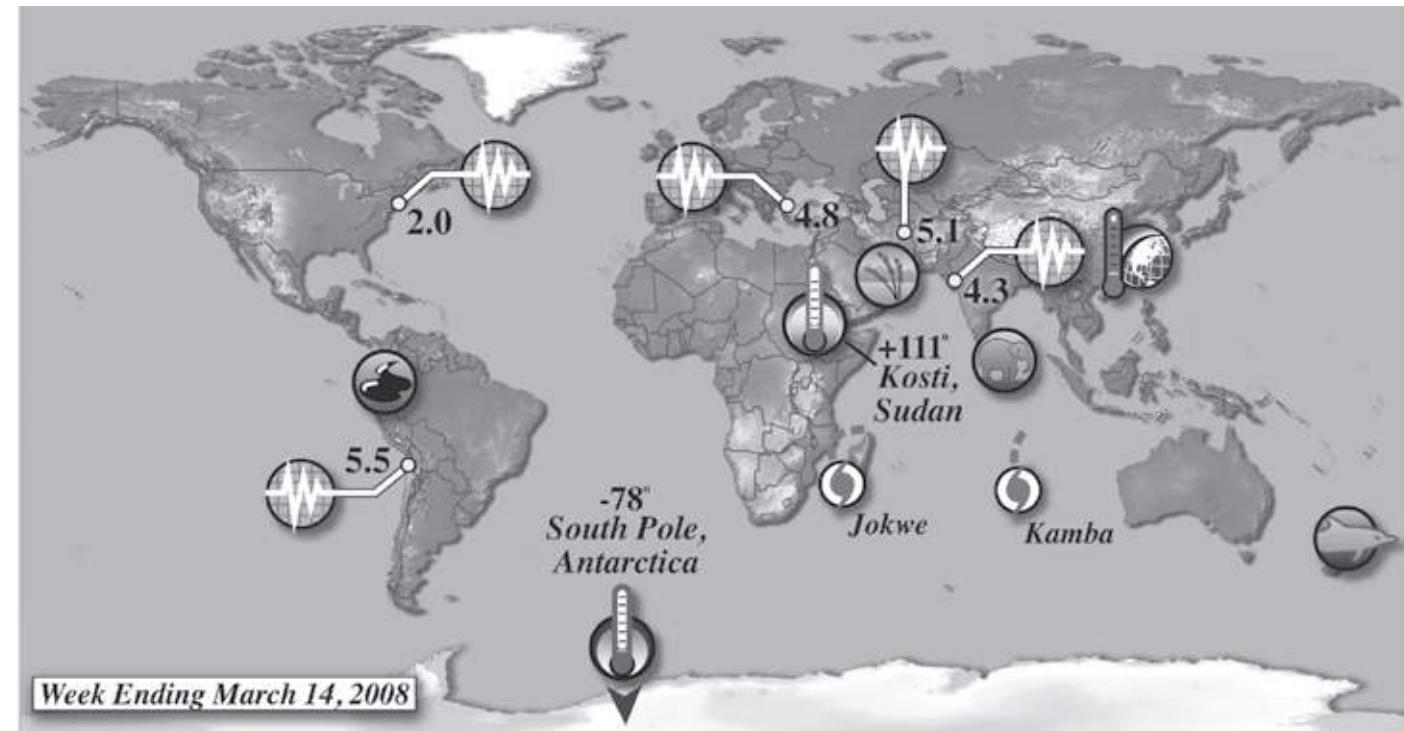
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Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service,
Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Amazon Oil Spill

Environmental damage from a huge oil spill caused by a landslide in eastern Ecuador's Amazon region could take a year to clean up, according to the state-owned oil company Petroecuador. About 4,000 barrels of oil were spilled, contaminating the Coca River. Petroecuador said approximately 30 percent of the spill was subsequently recovered, and insurance companies would pay for further cleanup. The Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System is capable of transporting 400,000 barrels of oil per day and links oil fields in the Amazon region with the Pacific port of Balao, 310 miles away. The landslide that caused the spill was unleashed by some of Ecuador's stormiest weather in decades.

Blocking Democracy

Residents of one Sri Lankan village were prevented from casting their first vote in 14 years not by Tamil Tiger rebels, but by a herd of wild elephants that blocked the road to the polling booths. Sri Lankan security forces used loudspeakers and sirens to scare away the jumbos in Wellaweli, eventually allowing about 51 percent of registered voters in the eastern Sri Lankan district to cast their ballots. There was no word on what might have drawn the pachyderms to the area.

Earthquakes

Iranian officials say that numerous buildings sustained damage or cracking from a 5.1 magnitude quake that struck the country's far eastern province of South Khorassan. No casualties were reported.

■ Earth movements were also felt in western Turkey, western India, northern Chile and Connecticut.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman brings grenade into police station

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—The police department was briefly evacuated after a woman decided she should bring in a hand grenade she found. The unidentified woman handed it to an officer Thursday after finding it while cleaning out a relative's belongings. The officer immediately took it outside the building and police cleared the building until the bomb squad took it away and detonated it about an hour later. The grenade appeared to be live. "When we countercharged it, it went boom," bomb squad supervisor Lt. James Brandon told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Benjamin Franklin, Betsy Ross to marry

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross are engaged. That would be Ralph Archbold, Philadelphia's best-known Franklin portrayer, and Linda Wilde, who's been at his side lately, portraying the flag-stitcher. They met Sept. 1 after Wilde hired Archbold for a friend's wedding toast. Archbold had initially declined the gig. "I don't do weddings," Archbold recalled telling Wilde. "It's the

bride's day to shine." But Wilde begged, and he relented. During the appearance, Wilde told Archbold about her interest in history and her desire to dress up. Archbold, 66, later called her in search of a last-minute Ross. "Think you can put together a costume?" he asked. She did, joining Archbold on a few outings, including the Thanksgiving parade. That turned into dating.

Czech workers find undelivered mail bags

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)—Construction workers in the Czech Republic have made a discovery that should relieve thousands of foreigners. The reason they never heard back when they sent mail to this nation in 2001-2006 is not that they were jilted. The reason is the mail ended up in a train tunnel. The Czech Post said Friday that 60 postal bags of mail and parcels that were mailed from other countries were found by workers renovating the unused tunnel at a train station in the southeastern town of Breclav. Postal spokesman Gabriel Pleska called the discovery "unprecedented" and "shocking," and said police are determined to find out who is to blame.

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Good Housekeeping

Museum banners in your home: High art, indeed

By ANNIE GROER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Four years ago, an eight-foot-tall banner depicting Swedish ball bearings on a crimson field fluttered from a Manhattan light pole, touting the reopening of New York's Museum of Modern Art. Today, it hangs in Peter Knockstead's dining room in Washington.

"It just spoke to me from a modern sense," says Knockstead, events manager for the American Diabetes Association. "And how cool is it that you know the provenance of it? I was told it was hung on Fifth Avenue."

Dawn Laguens was smitten by a banner showing a detail of Georgia O'Keeffe's "Red Hills With Flowers" at the Art Institute of Chicago. She bought one last Christmas for her partner, Jennifer Treat, and now the ceiling-height work radiates red, yellow and magenta in their D.C. living room.

"They are oversize, they are promos from 25 U.S. museums and galleries. They are impact

like reuse, which I love," says Laguens, a Democratic fund-raising consultant.

Both banners came from BetterWall, a 4-year-old Denver company that scouts, buys and sells these outdoor exhibition

pieces. Measuring from six to eight feet tall and 30 to 36 inches wide, they are as large and bold as most rooms can take.

All of them once hung from light poles or building fronts, and most are printed on both sides to catch the eye of drivers and pedestrians. Their sturdy vinyl material, fade-proof inks and wind slits mean they can survive outdoors for years. Prices start at \$300, with the rarest examples costing \$1,495. All include free shipping, hardware and hanging instructions.

The company (www.betterwall.com) was born of the enthusiasm of art historian Nora Weiser, 38, who ran a Denver museum shop alliance, and her husband, Nicolas, 39, who worked for an environmental consulting firm. Both were searching for a home business to meld their professional expertise and give them more time with their two children.

Nora Weiser acquired their first banner after the 1997 exhibition of Scottish



THE WASHINGTON POST

Museum banners in your home are high art, indeed. Peter Knockstead has a banner from New York's Museum of Modern Art hanging in his Washington dining room.

designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh she co-curated at the art institute. When the couple left Chicago for Denver, it moved with them.

"Everyone who walked into our house would say, 'Wow, where did you get it? Can I get one of those?'" Weiser

say. "They were fascinated by the idea that it was a street banner." One night when they were kicking around business possibilities, she says, her husband hit on an idea: "Let's sell those banners."

Current stock includes promos for Amish quilts from the

Denver Art Museum, a black-and-white Chuck Close self-portrait from a show at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and an image of a Japanese geisha that once flapped outside the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

After an exhibition closes, BetterWall pays to have the banners shipped to Denver, where they are cleaned and stored. The couple negotiates with artists, their estates, galleries or museums that own the copyrights for the image on each banner, be it a Ming Dynasty vase or a Picasso nude. They also pay an undisclosed royalty to the exhibiting museum for each banner sold, Weiser says.

The Weisers are motivated partly by affection for the banners and partly out of concern for the environment. Nora Weiser estimates they have kept 15 tons of plastic fabric out of landfills since 2004.

Today they are in talks with the National Gallery in London to secure rights to sell banners bearing a detail from Monet's "The Beach at Trouville," which graced banners for "Impressionists by the Sea." That Phillips show closed in January.

"We didn't see a downside," says Ann Greer, communications director for the Phillips. "It means a little bit of income for us, which is a percentage of sale price. They negotiate rights, which is something we wouldn't have time to do. Even if we own the work of art, it doesn't mean we have the copyright."

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Fixing old sash cords

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: I didn't pay much attention to the way double-hung windows worked, until one day when I lifted the sash higher than usual and heard a crashing sound. Turns out the windows were supported by a chain-and-weight pulley system on both sides. Now that window has lost one chain and weight, it is too lopsided to open or close. How can I fix this?—Clay B., Concord, N.H.

A: Double-hung windows use a dependable system with a fairly heavy weight, a rope or chain and a pulley wheel. The chain is recessed inside a groove on the sides of the window sash. The chain then travels upward above the sash and loops around a pulley wheel set into the jamb. In the hollow space inside the frame, the chain is attached to the end of a long, narrow iron weight. This pulley system allows double-hung windows to lift smoothly and easily.

Fortunately, you can access the inside of the frame in older double-hung windows to recover the weight and reattach the chain. Remove the wooden window stop on that side using a utility knife to cut through the paint film and a small pry bar to ease the piece out. Then pull the lower sash out of the frame, removing the sash cord on the other side to free it, and set it aside.

Inside the jamb, you should see a set of screws in the wood, indicating an access cover. Unscrew the cover—you may need to cut through paint again—and remove, revealing the jamb interior and the fallen weight and chain.

Retrieve the chain through the access opening and detach from the weight. Untangle and check for damage. Then feed the chain around the pulley wheel—if it's stubborn, tie a nail to the chain end with a piece of string as a guide—and lower down into the cavity. Have a friend hold the end of the chain while you reattach the interior end to the weight.

Screw the access cover back into place, attach the lower sash to its sash chains and ease into place. Then nail or screw the window-stop back on.

HOME TIP: Replace pulley chains in double-hung windows with 1/4-inch nylon rope designed for the job. It's durable, rarely tangles and much quieter.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Smoked Ham With Fresh Strawberry Sauce

We created this impressive glazed ham, which has become an Easter favorite.

TOTAL TIME: 4 1/2 hours
MAKES: 24 servings

1 (12-pound) smoked whole ham, fully cooked
3 pints strawberries
2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 teaspoons salt
1 jar (10- to 12-ounce) orange marmalade
Radish sprouts or watercress sprigs, for garnish

Remove skin and trim some fat from smoked whole ham, leaving about 1/4-inch fat. With knife, score fat covering on ham crosswise, just through to the meat, into 1-inch-wide strips. Place ham on rack in large roasting pan (about 17 by 11 1/2 inches). Insert meat thermometer into center of ham,

being careful that pointed end does not touch bone. Bake ham in 325 F oven 3 to 3 1/2 hours until thermometer reaches 140 F (15 to 18 minutes per pound). If ham browns too quickly, cover with tent of foil.

About 30 minutes before ham is done, prepare strawberry sauce: Reserve 1 pint strawberries for garnish. Hull remaining strawberries. In 3-quart saucepan with potato masher or back of slotted spoon, mash strawberries. Stir in brown sugar, cornstarch, salt, and orange marmalade; cook over medium heat until mixture thickens slightly and boils, stirring frequently.

To serve, place ham on warm, large platter. Arrange radish sprouts and reserved whole strawberries around ham. Serve with strawberry sauce.

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Answers to home questions

By GARY DYMSKI
(C) 2008 NEWSDAY

Question: Is it difficult to install three and six-space receptacles? I have a couple of rooms where I use computers and other electrical devices, so I think they'd be a great fit. Tell me more.

Answer:

They are called Triplex and Sixplex electrical outlets, manufactured by Leviton of New York. Like you, I think they're a great fit for multimedia rooms and parts of the house where extra outlets are needed.

In terms of safety, they eliminate potentially dangerous extension cords, plus the Sixplex outlet has a built-in surge protector, so there's no need to buy a free-standing device to shield your high-tech equipment against what's referred to as transient voltage. Both the Triplex and Sixplex outlets are wired like traditional duplex outlets; if you can wire a duplex outlet, you can wire a Triplex or Sixplex Leviton outlet.

Steven Zacharevitz, the Leviton designer chiefly responsible

for the products, also tells me that both outlets can be fitted to conventional double-gang boxes. I was under the impression the Sixplex device needed a larger box, but that's not the case.

One word of caution: You still must be careful not to overload the outlet, even if you have space to plug in devices. Remember this simple formula—



Triplex and Sixplex electrical outlets, manufactured by Leviton of New York, are a great fit for multimedia rooms and parts of the house where extra outlets are needed.

vice are listed on an information plate or label. Do the math, and you won't overload the circuit.

■ ■ ■

Q.: I saw recently that you warned about scalding from the hot-water tap and you mentioned that lowering water temperature from 140 degrees to 120 degrees can mean huge savings in hot-water

believe, mostly to guard against bacteria buildup in hot-water lines. Tap water should run from the hot-water faucet at a minimum of 120 degrees to protect against Legionnaires' disease and other health risks. In some cases, to get 120-degree tap water, the thermostat must be set higher. If a tank is in a cold utility room off the garage, the thermostat might need to be set at 140 degrees to produce 120-degree tap water. To be sure, adjust the thermostat down toward 130 degrees, and then use a food thermometer to test water

at the tap for the next couple of days. Keep adjusting until the tap water is consistently at 120 degree. Remember, you might have to dial it up a notch or two in the winter months.

heating costs. I'm interested in finding out more about these savings. Also, are there any safety concerns with turning down the thermostat on a hot-water tank?

A.: The U.S. Department of Energy has a Web site, A Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, (www.eere.energy.gov), where you can find lots of ways to reduce energy use. For water heaters, many manufacturers preset thermostats at 140 degrees. This is much too high, but it's done, I

Watts used by an electrical de-

Europe Highlights

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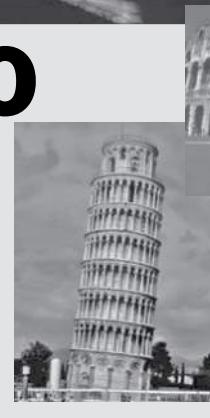
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The Good Life

plaques turn up in



By CAROL POLSKY
 © 2008, NEWSDAY

LONG BEACH, N.Y.—Mona Bergin has your number. Or rather, she does if you live in one of the thousands of homes bearing her hand-painted ceramic house number plaques.

The 48-year-old mother of three says the best aspect of her business, Ceramic House Number, is that she can do it all from her own home.

"I've done over 4,000 house number plaques, and I don't have to leave the house," Bergin says. "All I do is go to the post office once a day, and I'm done."

It all began about 18 years ago with the birth of her first daughter. Bergin knew she wanted to begin a home-based business, so she left her job at Siemens Communications, where her husband, Joe, 51, still works as a salesman.

She tried making stained-glass windows but stopped after finding her baby daughter eating a piece of lead. She tried a custom curtain business, but taking measurements meant leaving the house too often. Her hand-painted greeting card business just never took off.

But after a home renovation project led Bergin to create her own painted-tile backsplash, the path opened for a successful business. Too successful, in fact. The day she came home from the hospital after delivering twins 13 years ago, she was at her studio table finishing an order.

Then she learned how to create a Web site and came up with the idea for her ceramic tile plaques. She put some designs on www.ceramichouseumber.com, and her business was born.

"I launched it all by myself, and I waited. All of a sudden, I get an order. I said, 'Oh my God, I'm rich,'" Bergin recounts. "The next week I get seven orders, the week after that more. I said, 'Oh my goodness, what's going on?'"

By the second year, business had doubled, and it kept doubling year after year. Now she's receiving orders for her designs, which have names such as Toscana, Milan and Villa Roma, from all over the world.

"I get such beautiful thank-you letters," she says, recalling one from a client who said she thought of her grandmother in Italy every time she saw the plaque. "I get a lot of that, and I save them."

She also does custom designs, based on clients' specifications, including variations on the standard 8-by-16-inch tile size.

"I say two weeks because I get busy, but they usually get it within a week," she says. "I like to fire it a couple of times, hang out with it to make sure I like it."

"It's always painted with love."

Bergin still fires her plaques in the kiln that she bought used years ago for \$300 and learned to use by trial and error. "It's my good-luck kiln," she says.

Mona Bergin has your number. Or rather, she does if you live in one of the thousands of homes bearing her hand-painted ceramic house number plaques. The 48-year-old mother of three says the best aspect of her business, Ceramic House Number, is that she can do it all from her own home in Long Beach, N.Y.

NEWSDAY

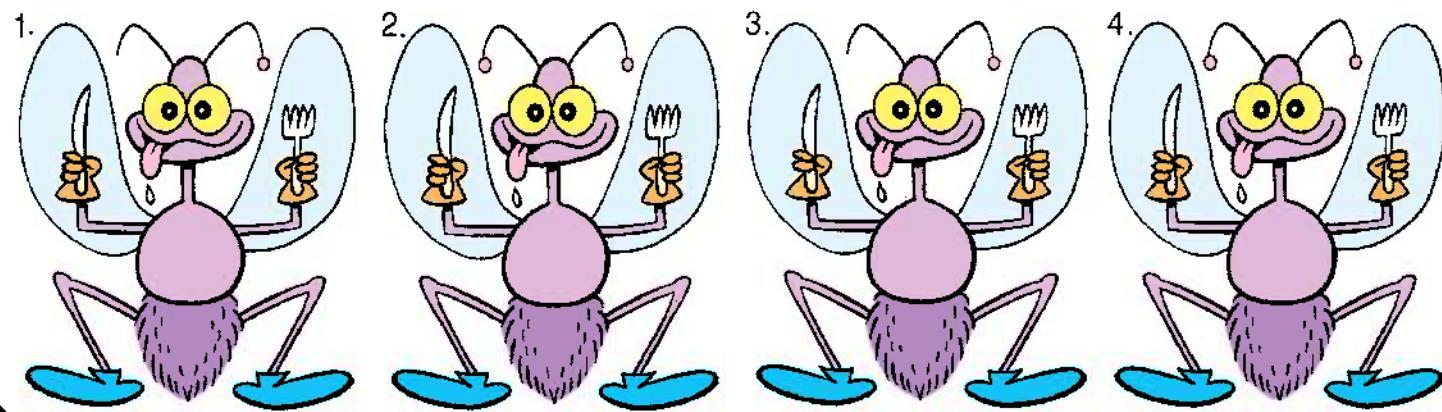
big numbers

Bob Weber Jr.'s

SLYLOCK FOX

and
COMICS FOR KIDS

Which two bugs are exactly alike?



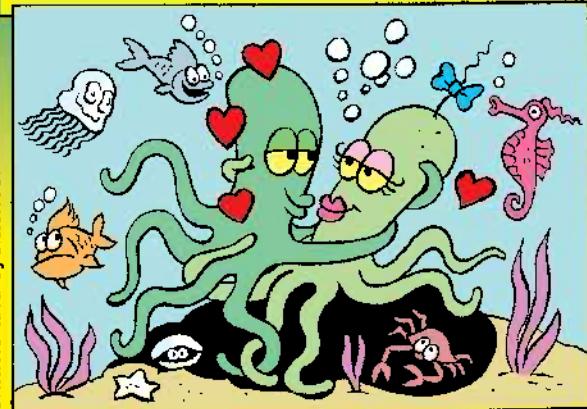
Answer -- Numbers two and four.

The Forest Baking Contest is today. Holly Hippo wrote her peach pie recipe on a pad last night. Now the page it was written on is missing, and she can't remember all the ingredients. There isn't enough time to find the thief and missing page. How will Slylock Fox help Holly?

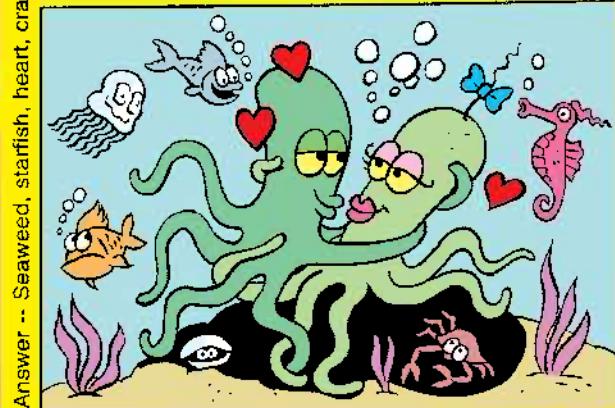
Solution -- When Holly pressed hard enough to write the recipe, she wrote it on the back of the next page. By lightly rubbing a pencil over the page, Holly's recipe will appear.



Find six differences between these panels.

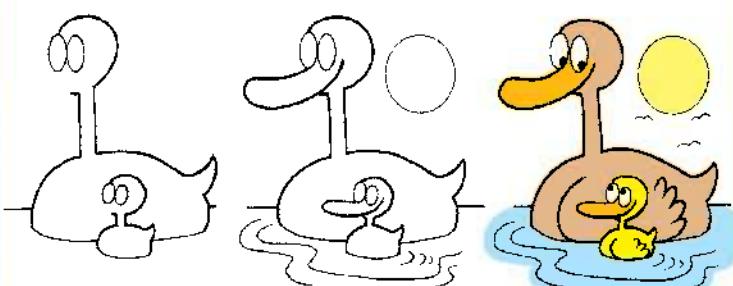


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New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a mother and baby duck



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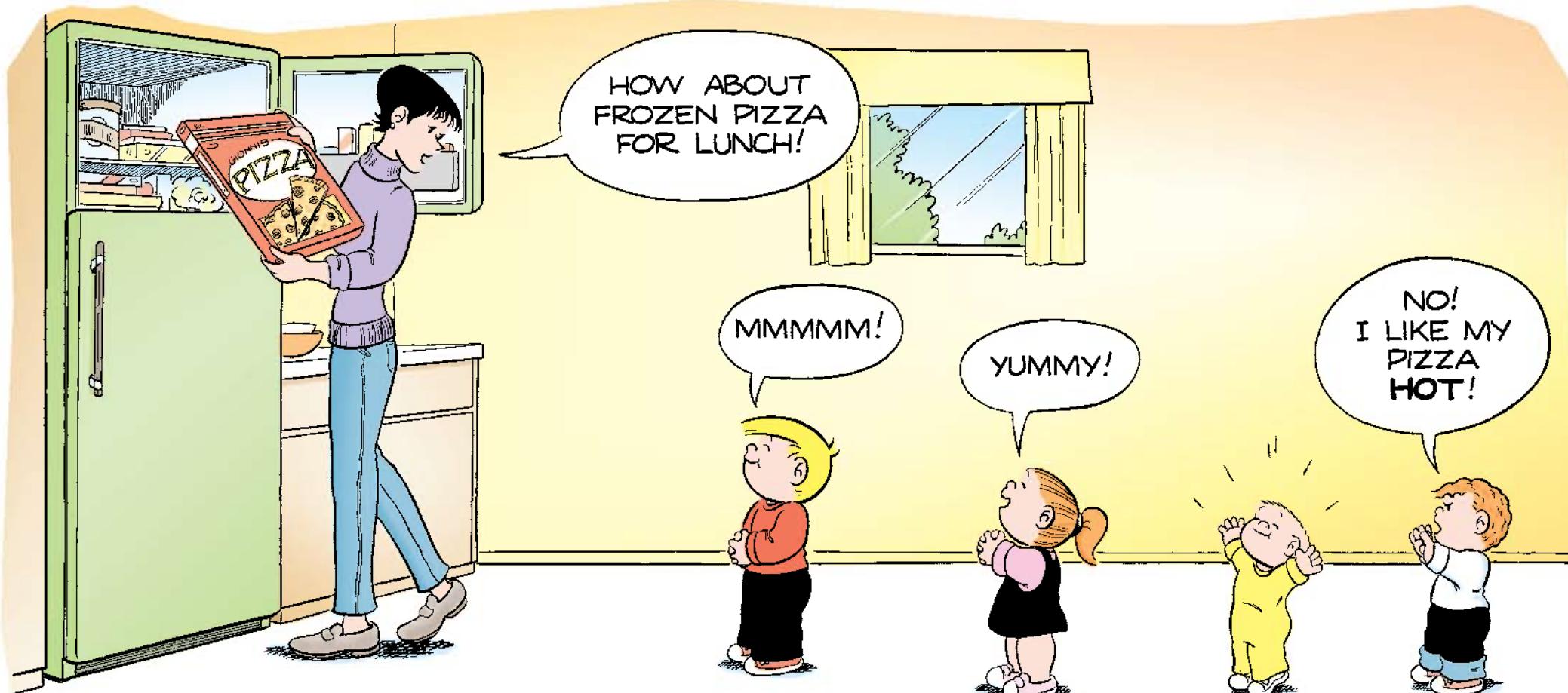
The largest octopus ever caught weighed about ...
 a) 75 pounds
 b) 190 pounds
 c) 300 pounds
 d) 600 pounds
 e) 3,000 pounds

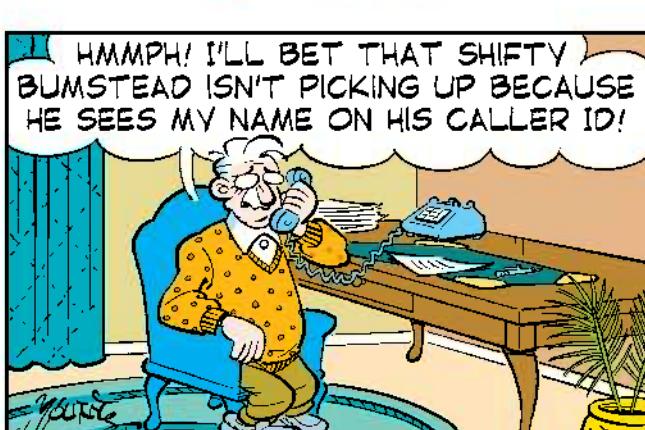
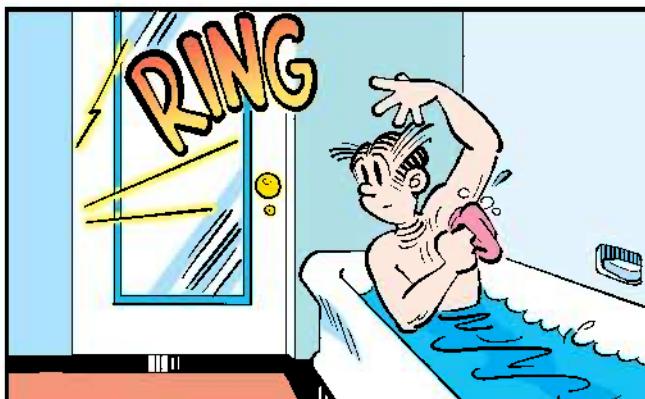
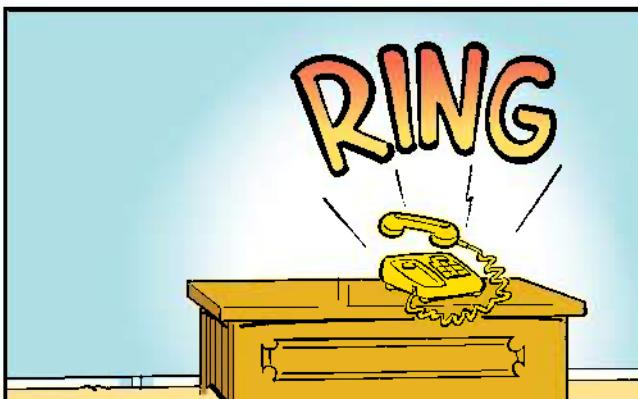
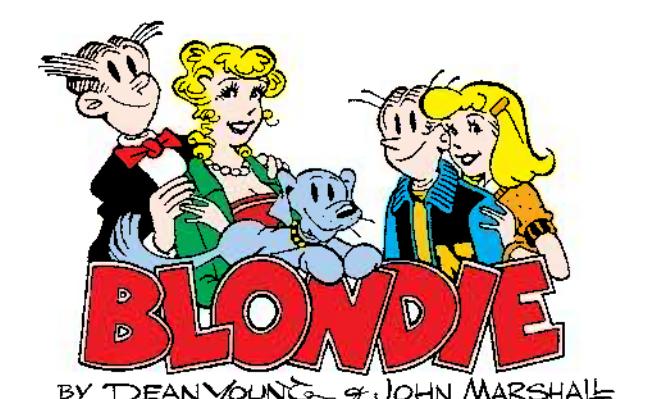
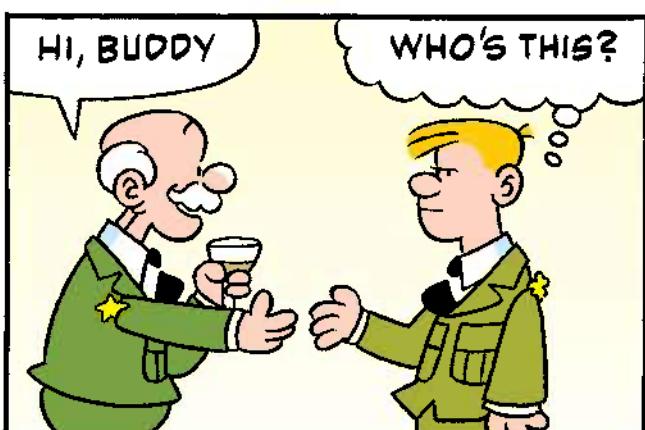
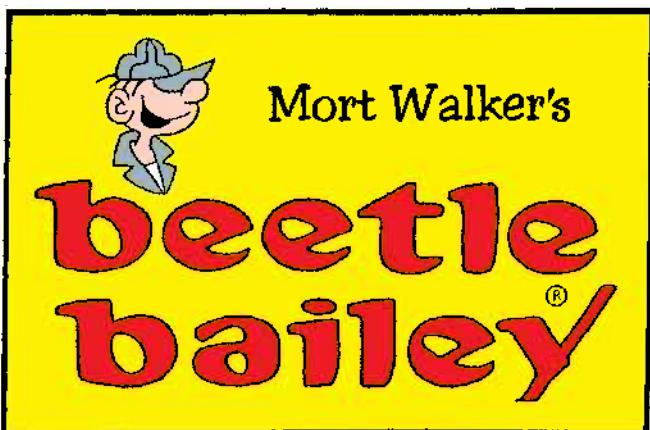
ANSWER -- (d)

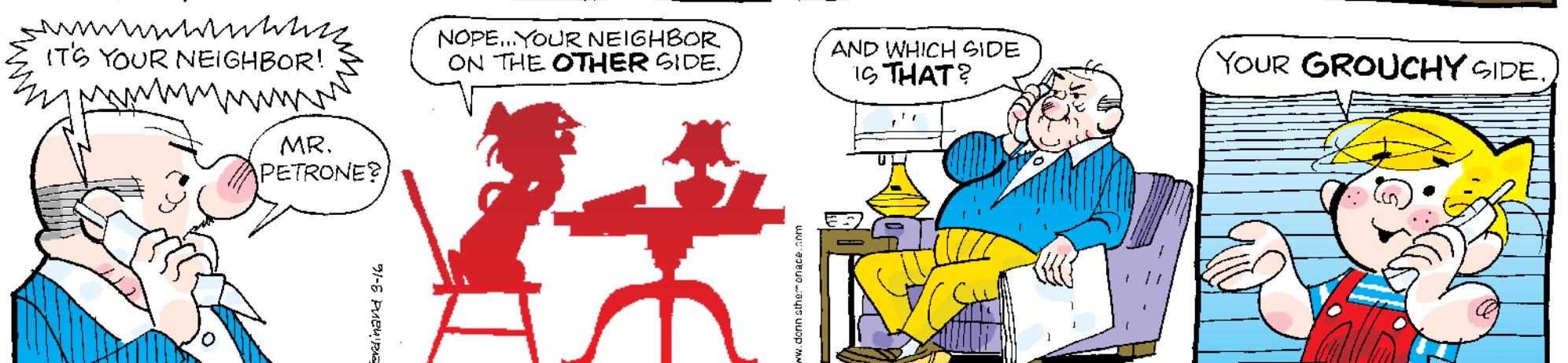
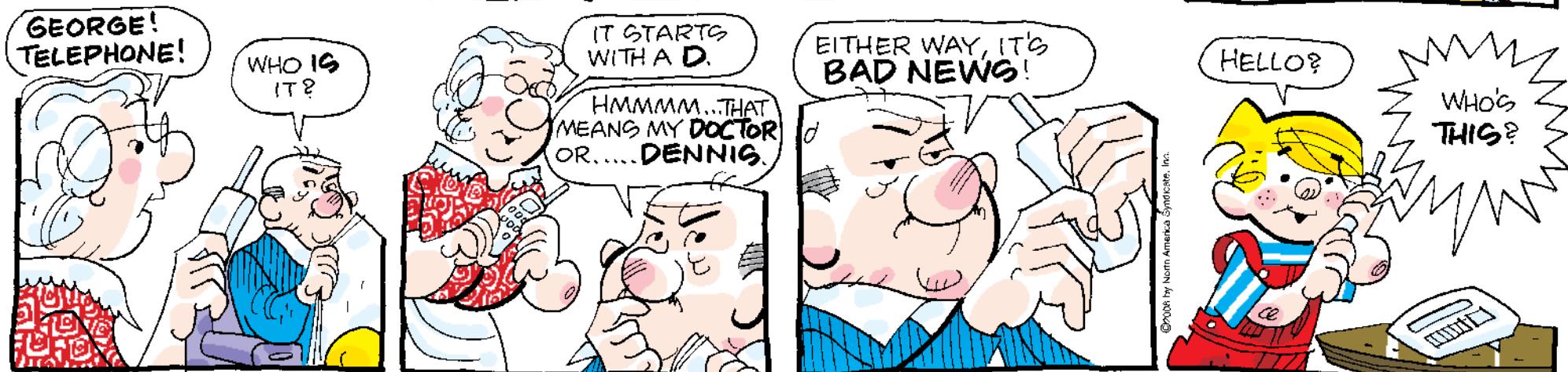
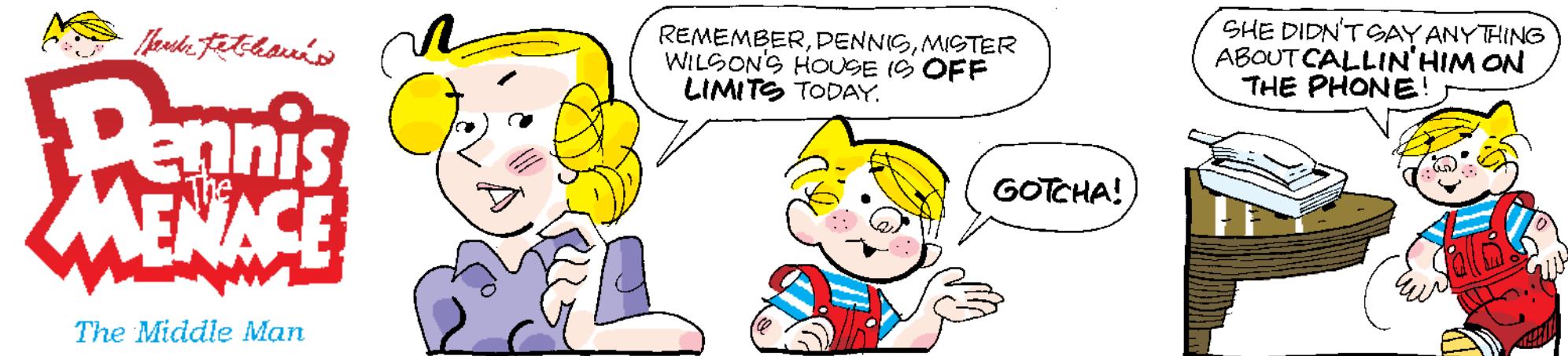
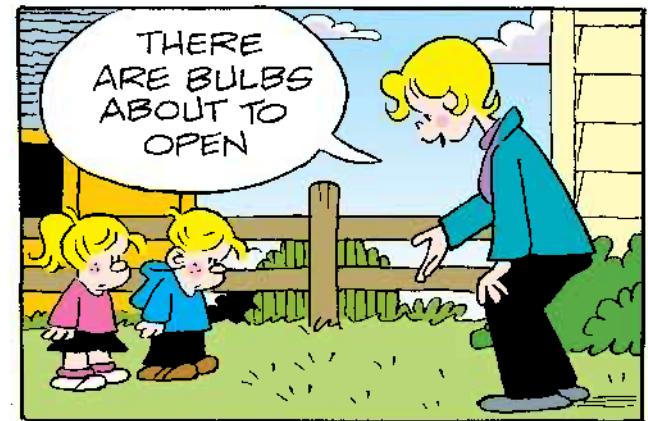
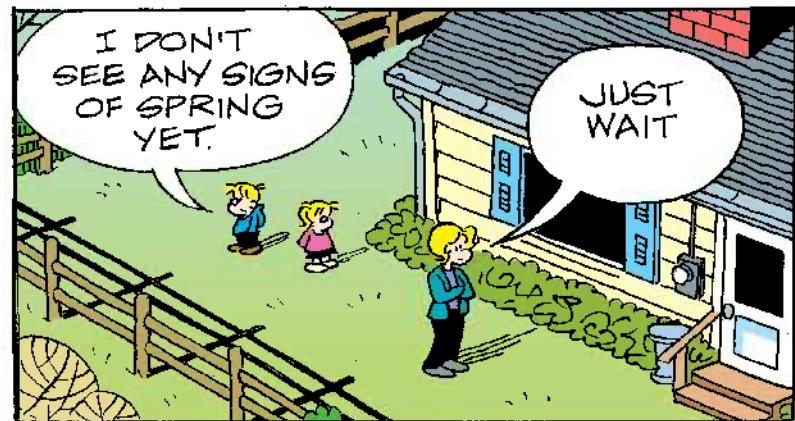
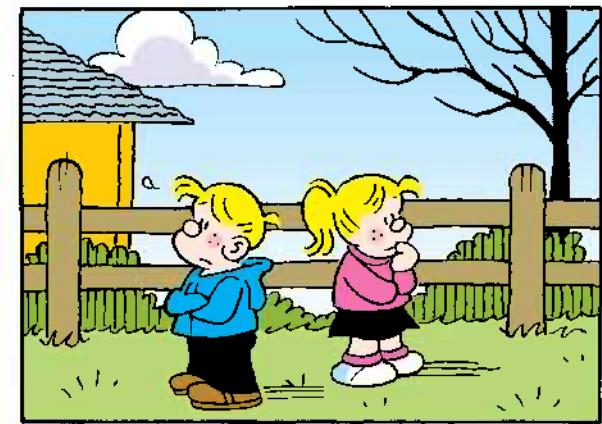
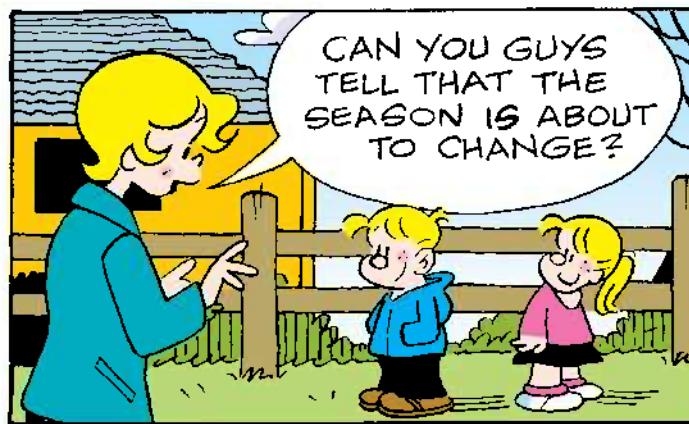
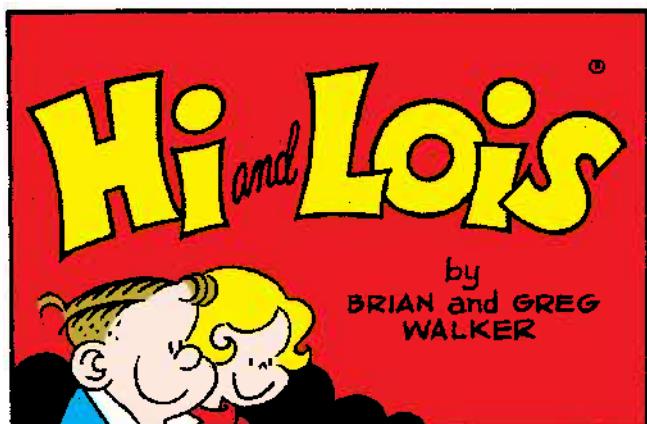
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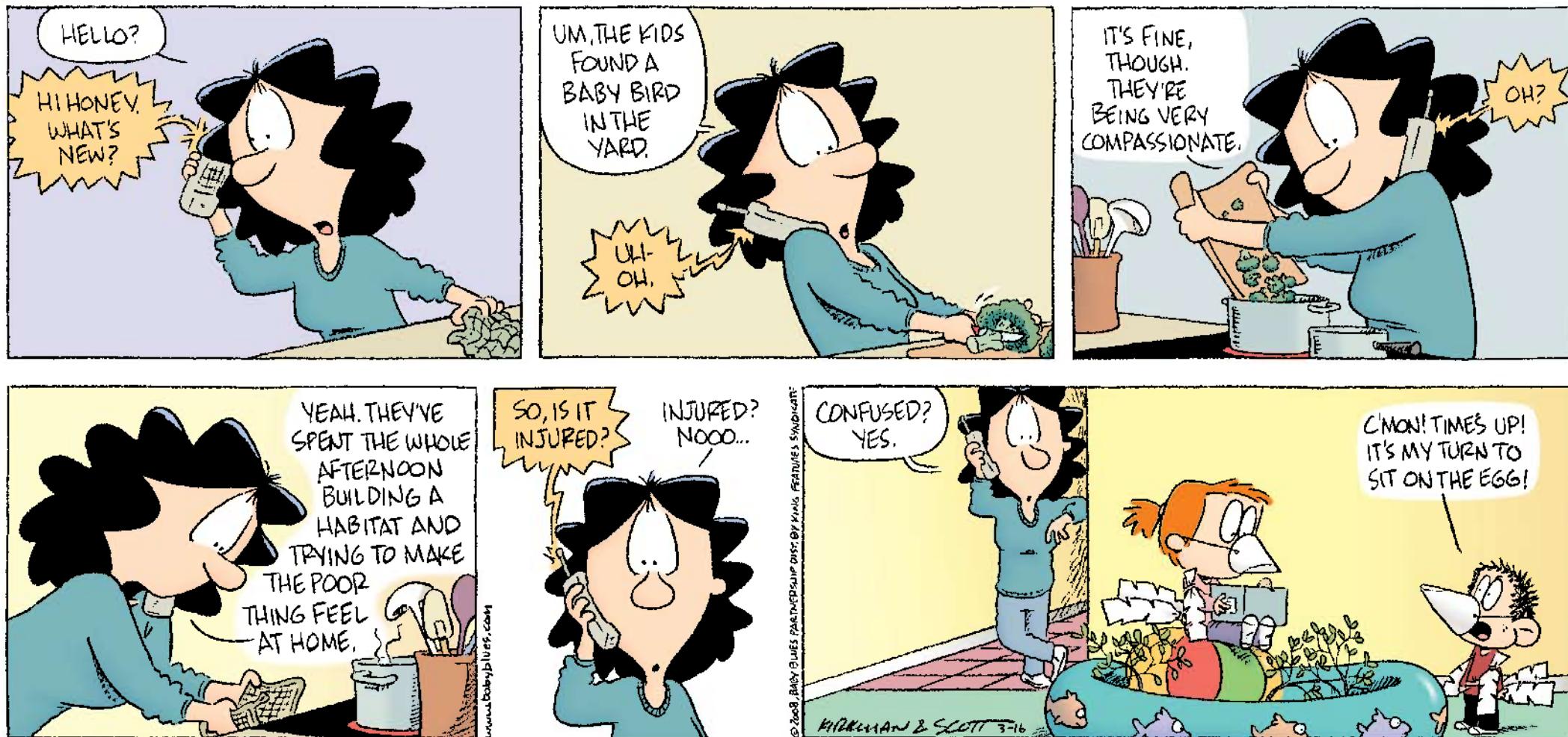
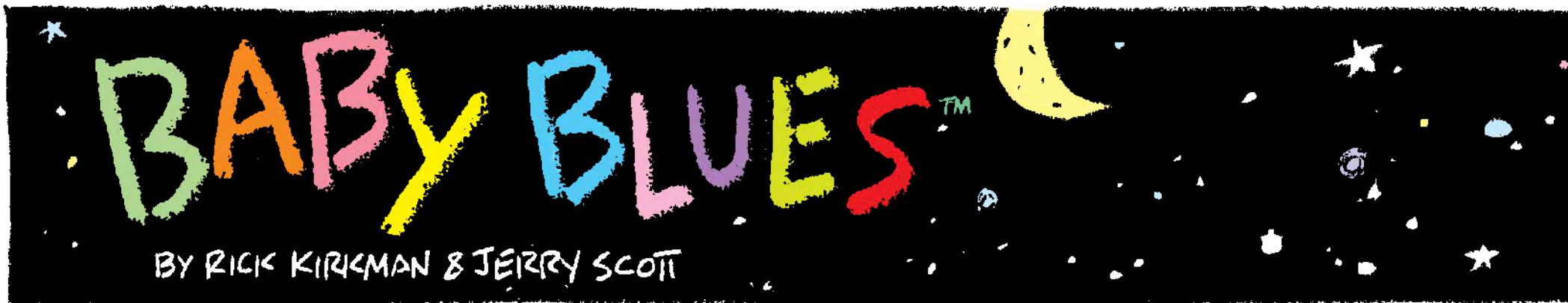
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By BIL KEANE









ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could have some problems with doubters who don't share your enthusiasm for that new project you're supporting. But use the facts to win them over to your side.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Someone is impressed by

how you managed to get your case to the right people, despite attempts to keep you on the outside looking in. Expect to hear more about this.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Good

for you—your gift for seeing both sides of a dispute helps cool down a potentially explosive workplace situation. Some family-related tensions also begin to ease.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your determination to prove yourself is put to the test by midweek. Counting all the positive factors you have going for you will help you get over your self-doubt. Good luck.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Several co-workers are still determined to resist coming over to your side. But don't let that stop you from presenting your proposal to the people who count. Stay the course.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might prefer

to be taken on faith and not have to prove yourself. But the truth is, you need to offer more facts if you hope to persuade people to accept what you say.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family situation takes an unwelcome turn. While others might be looking around for answers, you'll soon sort it all out logically, and the matter will be resolved.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone might try to create doubt about your reliability for his or her own agenda. But your reputation and your colleagues' long-standing faith in you saves the day.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected change of plans forces you to come up with an alternative by the end of the week. Look for colleagues to offer valuable suggestions.



CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Nothing upsets the Goat as much as broken promises. But before you vent your anger, consider that this could ultimately prove to be a blessing in disguise.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An old workplace problem you thought you had solved for good resurfaces. But this time, co-workers will take a more active role in helping you deal with it.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be careful not to be misled by a negative reaction to one of your more important projects. If you believe in it, then it has worth and is, therefore, worth staying with.

BORN THIS WEEK: Everyone appreciates your gift for finding beauty, even where it seems least likely to exist.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Tummy muscles
4 Fill a suitcase
8 Therefore
12 Homer's interjection
13 — vera
14 Angel's prop
15 Final performance
17 Seaweed
18 Tree house?
19 Draw a conclusion
20 Texas A&M student
22 Watch noise
24 Wonka creator Roald
25 1933 Marx Brothers movie
29 Palindromic title
30 Maguire of "Spider-Man"
31 Street address?
32 Convict quickly and falsely
34 Plumbing problem
35 Hightails it from the law
36 Antimacassar
37 Inexpensive
40 — and crafts
41 Actor Neeson
42 Fit together
46 Gumbo need

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
			18				19			
20	21				22	23				
24			25				26	27	28	
29			30				31			
32		33					34			
		35				36				
37	38	39			40					
41			42	43				44	45	
46			47				48			
49			50				51			

DOWN

1 Commercials
2 Acknowledge applause
3 Forcibly detain
4 Old hat
5 Oodles
6 Anti
7 Small barrel
8 "Merci"

9 Fair share, often
10 Desire
11 Practice pugilism
12 Armstrong or Simon
13 Disgusting
14 Hebrew month
15 Bacterium
16 Armstrong or Simon
17 Snare
18 Andean herd
19 Mississippi ex-senator Trent
20 Oompah producers
21 Enthusiastic
22 On the rocks
23 Unhappy destiny
24 Deferral
25 Caspian feeder
26 Alternative
27 Remiss

top ten

Irish actors

1. Colin Farrell
2. Pierce Brosnan
3. Cillian Murphy
4. Liam Neeson
5. Jonathan Rhys Meyers
6. Gabriel Byrne
7. Kenneth Branagh
8. Stephen Rea
9. Ciaran Hinds
10. Stuart Townsend

Source: Rebecca Murray, About.com

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

N	O	H	O	W	M	O	P	S	A	L
O	P	E	R	A	M	I	C	I		
S	T	Y	E	S	D	A	G	W	O	D
U	F	O	T	I	E	A	E	R	I	E
W	O	N	D	E	R	H	U	L	L	
L	E	A	W	O	D	O	B	E	T	W
M	E	D	I	C	I	O	L	E	R	S
S	C	U	L	N	U	S	M	E	W	
A	L	S	O	B	E	S	T	O		
L	E	A	W	O	D	A	B	O		
S	A	G	F	I	G	M	O	O		
A	T	E	A	L	E	P	E	D		

United States

Storms rips through downtown Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP)—A severe storm ripped through downtown Atlanta on Friday night, injuring several people and damaging skyscrapers, hotels and two major sports arenas that were filled with thousands of pro and college basketball fans.

National Weather Service officials were unsure if a tornado had touched down, but wind was clocked at up to 60 mph as the storm moved through the city.

On its Web site, CNN said its headquarters sustained ceiling damage, allowing water to pour into the atrium, as well as shattered windows in the CNN.com newsroom and the company's library.

A firefighter outside the skyscraper said three people in the vicinity had been transported to hospitals, including a child with head injuries. He said none of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

Atlanta Police spokesman Ronald Campbell said authorities had blocked off roads around the CNN Center, where heavy debris filled the streets.

Man in month-old Vegas ricin case wakes

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man who may have been exposed to toxic ricin in his motel room a month ago has regained consciousness and was being questioned by investigators, authorities said Friday.

Roger Bergendorff, 57, remained in critical condition in a hospital, where he has been hospitalized and unable to speak since Feb. 14. Several vials of ricin powder were found in his room two weeks later after a friend went there to remove

Bergendorff's belongings.

Investigators were speaking with Bergendorff for the first time Friday, said Special Agent David Staretz, an FBI spokesman. Neither he nor Las Vegas police would provide more information.

Authorities hope Bergendorff can provide information about the discovery of the deadly powder, along with castor beans from which it is derived, at an extended stay motel where he had been living several blocks from the Las Vegas Strip.



Water pours down the steps at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta Friday, March 14, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Air Force F-16 crashes in Arizona

PHOENIX (AP)—An F-16 fighter flying out of Arizona's Luke Air Force Base crashed northwest of Phoenix on Friday during an air-to-air training exercise, Air Force officials said. The status of the pilot, the only person on board, was unknown. The aircraft went down around noon south of Alamo Lake, a remote area about 80 miles northwest of Phoenix, said Mary Jo May, a base spokeswoman. A rescue helicopter was at the scene. The single-seat jet wasn't carrying any weapons, May said. The cause of the crash of the F-16C was unknown. Officials with a nearby state park and the La Paz County Sheriff's Office said they had no information to provide on the crash.

Former SC treasurer gets 10 months

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A former South Carolina treasurer and millionaire developer convicted in a cocaine case won a reduced sentence of 10 months in prison on Friday in part for his insight about the drug scene in Charleston. Thomas Ravenel, who admitted he has used the drug since he was 18, has a chance to have his sentence trimmed even more. The judge, skeptical

of prosecutors' assertions that Ravenel had significantly helped authorities, agreed to give attorneys five months to present more evidence before the former political star goes to prison. Defense attorneys had argued that the first-time offender should receive no prison time, while prosecutors agreed to a reduced sentence. Ravenel, 45, had faced as many as 20 years in prison and up to a \$1 million fine for a federal charge of conspiracy to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute.

High wheat prices raise grocery costs

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—The price of wheat has more than tripled during the past 10 months, making Americans' daily bread—and bagels and pizza and pasta—feel a little like luxury items. Experts expect some 80 percent of grocery prices will spike, too, and could remain steep for years because wheat and other grains are used to feed cattle, poultry and dairy cows. The wheat market has been pushed higher by a combination of agricultural, financial and energy issues. Poor wheat harvests in Australia and parts of Europe and the U.S. have caused China and other Asian countries to buy up more American crops, which are especially attractive because of the weak U.S.

dollar. At the same time, the American crop is shrinking because of federal incentives to grow corn for ethanol. And skyrocketing gas prices make it costlier to get any wheat to market. Those same pressures have also made it more expensive to supply feed grains for livestock.

Obama denounces pastor's 9/11 comments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on Friday denounced inflammatory remarks from his pastor, who has railed against the United States and accused the country of bringing on the Sept. 11 attacks by spreading terrorism. As video of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright has widely aired on television and the Internet, Obama responded by posting a blog about his relationship with Wright and his church, Chicago's Trinity United Church of Christ, on the Huffington Post. Obama wrote that he's looked to Wright for spiritual advice, not political guidance, and he's been pained and angered to learn of some of his pastor's comments for which he had not been present. Obama told MSNBC that Wright had stepped down from his campaign's African American Religious Leadership Committee.

Call girl denounces use of exotic photos

NEW YORK (AP)—The lawyer for the call girl linked to the downfall of Gov. Eliot Spitzer lashed out at the media on Friday for thrusting the 22-year-old woman into the "public glare" without her consent and publishing revealing photos.

Since her identity was disclosed, newspapers and Web sites have splashed photos of Ashley Alexandra Dupre in suggestive poses on front and inside pages. Dupre was known as "Kristen" in court documents accusing Spitzer of paying thousands for prostitutes' services.

Her attorney, Don D. Buchwald, said she did not consent to the use of her photos in this manner, and the usage may be a violation of federal copyright laws. He said the photos have appeared on commercial Web



Dupre

House approves new eavesdropping rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House on Friday approved a Democratic bill that would set rules for the government's eavesdropping on phone calls and e-mails inside the United States. The bill, approved as lawmakers departed for a two-week break, faces a veto threat from President Bush. The margin of House approval was 213-197, largely along party lines.

Because of the promised veto, "this vote has no impact at all," said Republican Whip Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri.

The president's main objection is that the bill does not protect from lawsuits the telecommunications companies that allowed the government to eavesdrop on their customers without a court's permission after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. White House spokesman Tony Fratto called the measure a "political ploy" designed to give Democrats cover for their failure to grant full retroactive immunity to the telecom companies.

The vote sent the bill to the Senate, which has passed its own version that includes the legal immunity for telecom companies that Bush is demanding.

sites without her consent.

Buchwald stopped short of saying Dupre would sue media outlets, but he contended that she is not a public figure and said he would take "all steps that we deem necessary or appropriate to protect Ms. Dupre from any unwarranted exploitation of her name, picture, voice or likeness for purposes of profit."

He did not specify the publications to which he was referring. The New York Post ran four photos Friday in which Dupre, topless, barely covers her breasts, as well as two other images of her scantily clad. The pictures, credited in the paper to Wesley Mann at Contact Press Images, have become an Internet sensation. The Post had no comment on Buchwald's statement.

Asia



Protesters gather around burning debris in the streets of Lhasa, Tibet, Friday March 14, 2008.

Tibet protests escalate into violence

BEIJING (AP)—Protests led by Buddhist monks against Chinese rule in Tibet turned violent Friday, bathing Lhasa in smoke from tear gas, bonfires and burned shops, and posing a challenge to China on whether its image can withstand a harsh crackdown ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

At least 10 people died in the rioting, state media reported.

From exile in India, the Dalai Lama appealed to China not to use force to end the largest, most sustained demonstrations in nearly two decades against Beijing's 57-year rule in Tibet.

RP protesters press for GMA resignation

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of students and left-wing activists pressed their call for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resignation Friday in the third mass protest in a month over corruption allegations implicating her and her husband.

Several Roman Catholic bishops and dozens of priests and nuns critical of Arroyo joined the rally at a park in central Manila. Some released doves and green balloons to signify peace and the search for truth.

The Senate has been investigating allegations that Arroyo, her husband and a former elections chief benefited from huge kickbacks in an aborted US\$330 million (€212 million) deal with China's ZTE Corp. to set up a nationwide broadband network.

Presidential spokesmen have dismissed the charges as hearsay and opposition "grandstanding." The president's husband and the former elections chief—who resigned last year after he was implicated—have both denied any wrongdoing. ZTE has denied bribing anyone. Arroyo canceled the contract in September because of the controversy.

Police estimated the protesters reached a peak of 6,000, much smaller than the tens of thousands who rallied two weeks ago in the biggest protest since the opposition-dominated Senate opened hearings into the scandal last year.

China's government in Tibet accused the Dalai Lama's supporters of inciting the unrest and imposed a curfew, ordering people to stay indoors.

Eyewitness accounts and photos posted on the Internet portrayed a chaotic scene in Lhasa, the provincial capital, with crowds hurling rocks at security forces, hotels and restaurants. The U.S. Embassy said Americans had reported gunfire.

Reports of deaths varied and could not be independently verified, but China's official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday that 10 people were confirmed dead.

The dead included "business people," according to an earlier Xinhua report. The agency also has said no foreigners were hurt.

At a demonstration outside the United Nations in New York, Psurbu Tsering of the Tibetan Association of New York and New Jersey said its members received phone calls from Tibet claiming 70 people had been killed and 1,000 arrested.

In some of the strongest words yet from officials, regional Tibet government head Champa Phunstok warned Saturday that the authorities will respond forcefully.

Hu re-elected as China president

BEIJING (AP)—Hu Jintao was re-elected Saturday as China's president and head of its military commission, a formality to cement a second five-year term for the leader of the world's most populous country.

The National People's Congress also appointed Xi Jinping, a top Communist Party leader and the son of a revolutionary, as vice president. Xi is the apparent heir to the leadership and has risen quickly through the party's ranks in just six months.

The congress also approved a plan to reshuffle the Cabinet by establishing five "super ministries" and a ministerial-level energy commission.

Under Hu, China has prospered economically and seen a rise in its international profile. Hu and Premier Wen Jiabao are widely popular among Chinese, who feel the leaders are hardworking and sympathetic to their struggles.

My Lai marks 40th massacre anniversary

MY LAI, Vietnam (AP)—To the villagers who survived the My Lai massacre and many of the Americans who fought in the Vietnam War, all the anniversaries of the atrocity are important.

But Sunday's anniversary—the 40th—seems especially urgent to some of the Americans who have come to commemorate it.

In My Lai, members of the Charlie Company slaughtered as many as 504 villagers, in-

This summer, Beijing will host the Olympic games, an event that is a great source of national pride and which the leadership hopes will show off a dynamic "new China" to the world.

But Hu and his advisers face stiff challenges during his second term: Soaring food costs have driven inflation to their highest levels in nearly 12 years. Deadly rioting in the far western region of Tibet underscored ethnic tensions. Freak snowstorms this past winter brought many parts of China to a halt, highlighting weaknesses in transportation and infrastructure.

Xi, the apparent leader-in-waiting, has taken an unusually visible role since vaulting from his position as the Communist Party boss in Shanghai to the party's inner sanctum. He is overseeing preparations for the Olympics and has received visiting foreign statesmen.

cluding unarmed women, children and elderly.

Frustrated U.S. troops came to My Lai on a "search and destroy" mission, looking for elusive Vietcong guerrillas. Although there were no reports of enemy fire, the U.S. troops began mowing down villagers and setting fire to their homes.

The incident shocked Americans and undermined support for the war.



Hu

Across the Globe

Hard-liners expected to lead Iran vote

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Reformist leaders pushed for Iranians to vote in parliamentary elections Friday, hoping to prevent a sweep by hard-liners allied with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad after the country's clerical leadership threw many liberal candidates out of the race.

Many Iranians who support liberal reforms spent the day deliberating with friends and family, going back and forth between two options: vote and give legitimacy to an election many of them saw as unfair, or boycott and ensure an even stronger conservative domination of parliament.

In the end, Hesam Javadi, a

30-year-old computer technician, voted.

"We can't stop the rain," he said after casting his ballot for reformists at a north Tehran polling station. "But we can at least put an umbrella over our heads in self-defense."

According to the official IRNA and semi-official Fars news agencies, initial results showed hard-liners leading the elections but reformists were polling strongly in some provincial cities.

Reformists are hoping a strong turnout can win them a large enough minority bloc in parliament to at least have an impact after four years with only a small presence.

But even that may be difficult. Some of the movement's leaders estimated it has candidates running in only around 90 of the races for parliament's 290 seats after its ranks were dramatically cut by the clerical disqualifications.

Perhaps the more crucial test will be of Ahmadinejad's support among conservatives. Some have become disillusioned with the president since he came to office in 2005 and have formed a slate of candidates competing against a list of supporters of the president.

Chavez says US can 'shove' terror list

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez dared the U.S. on Friday to put Venezuela on a list of countries accused of supporting terrorism, calling it one more attempt by Washington to undermine him for political reasons.

Chavez said the "threat to include us on the terrorist list" is Washington's response to his government's successes in the region.

U.S. lawmakers including Reps. Connie Mack and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, both Florida Republicans, have called for the State Department to add Venezuela to its list of terror sponsors, which includes North Korea, Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba.

Muslims nations: Defame Islam, get sued?

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—The Muslim world has created a battle plan to defend its religion from political cartoonists and bigots.

Concerned about what they see as a rise in the defamation of Islam, leaders of the world's Muslim nations are considering taking legal action against those that slight their religion or its sacred symbols. It was a key issue during a two-day summit that ended Friday in this western Africa capital.

The Muslim leaders are attempting to demand redress from nations like Denmark, which allowed the publica-

tion of cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad in 2006 and again last month, to the fury of the Muslim world.

Though the legal measures being considered have not been spelled out, the idea pits many Muslims against principles of freedom of speech enshrined in the constitutions of numerous Western governments.

"I don't think freedom of expression should mean freedom from blasphemy," said Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade, the chairman of the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference. "There can be no freedom without limits."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq: Archbishop is mourned

BAGHDAD (AP)—Carrying flowers and olive branches, mourners wept and wailed as they carried a wooden coffin holding the body of one of Iraq's most senior Chaldean Catholic clerics for a proper burial in northern Iraq on Friday. Leading the procession down the streets of a village outside Mosul was a church official who held a wooden cross with Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho's picture. Rahho's body was found Thursday in a shallow grave just weeks after he was kidnapped. "He was a man of honesty, loyalty and peace," Iraqi Cardinal Emmanuel III Delly said during a nearly hourlong funeral Mass. "He was loved by all Iraqi people." Pope Benedict XVI, President Bush and Iraq's prime minister all deplored the attack. U.S. officials in Baghdad also issued a statement Friday, calling it "one more savage attempt by a barbaric enemy to sow strife and discord."

Mukasey: Don't execute 9/11 accused

LONDON (AP)—U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey said Friday he hopes the men charged with participating in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks are not executed if found guilty to

avoid making martyrs of them. Mukasey said many terrorists want to be martyrs and that by sentencing them to death, U.S. authorities risk granting those wishes. He made the comments while answering a question after a talk at the London School of Economics. However, Mukasey said that the punishment would be fitting if the accused are convicted. "One of them at least is proud enough of it to have written to his wife that he thinks he is innocent because it was only 3,000 (people who died in the attacks)," he said. "If those are not poster children for the death penalty I don't know who is."

UN calls for probe in Colombia deaths

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—The U.N. on Friday called for an investigation into the deaths of six organizers of a march protesting the Colombian government and paramilitary death squads. The victims included union workers and human rights activists. They were killed around the time of the March 6 protest that drew tens of thousands of people. "This office asks state authorities to guarantee prompt and efficient protection for those human rights defenders and the leaders of social organizations," the U.N. High Commission

sioner for Human Rights said in a statement. Activists accuse President Alvaro Uribe's administration of lumping human rights workers together with rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's largest leftist guerrilla group, supposedly giving the death squads a green light to attack the activists.

US mediates first Mideast peace meeting

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Bush administration's Mideast envoy pushed Israel and the Palestinians to speed up peace negotiations Friday at the first meeting the U.S. has attended since talks resumed nearly four months ago. Lt. Gen. William Fraser III took a hands-off approach during his first few months on the job, preferring to let moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert negotiate on their own. But the talks stalled after an upsurge in violence between the sides last month, and Fraser came from Washington to oversee the meeting at Jerusalem's King David Hotel between Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Amos Gilad, a lower-level Israeli Defense Ministry official.

Focus

Scandal gives peek inside call-girl ring

By ADAM GOLDMAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—If a customer had the money, Emperors Club VIP had the women.

For the right price, the New York escort service flew prostitutes to Beverly Hills and London, Miami and Paris. A trip to Europe could cost more than \$25,000. An hour could run \$5,500.

Black pride swells with Paterson's rise to NY governor

By VERENA DOBNIK

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In Harlem and other predominantly black neighborhoods, they don't care how David Paterson becomes governor. They just care that he is taking over the state's top job.

The unexpected ascension of Paterson, the lieutenant governor, longtime lawmaker and heir to a Harlem political dynasty, has fueled a surge of black pride amid the demise of Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

The 53-year-old Paterson will be sworn in Monday as New York's first black and legally blind governor, succeeding Spitzer, who announced his resignation this week after getting caught in a federal prostitution investigation.

To Leonardo Reynolds, a 19-year-old community college student from Syracuse, Paterson's political rise has been inspiring, especially when paired with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama's tight race with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"I think there's still a lot of racism around, but having black leaders in these positions will help change things," Reynolds said.

The new governor, who served as Spitzer's lieutenant for just 14 months, has been a Democratic state senator since 1985, representing parts of Harlem and Manhattan's Upper West Side in a city where blacks are 28 percent of the population, compared with 16 percent statewide.

A graduate of Columbia University and Hofstra School of Law, Paterson lives in an apartment com-

See BLACK on Page 20

The business had a colorful cast of characters: Leggy models with names like Raquel, Chrissy and Maya; a booking agent who graduated from an elite New Jersey prep school; an owner with a background in financial consulting; and wealthy customers such as the governor of New York.

Eliot Spitzer's resignation over his links to the club will forever make it synonymous

with a historic sex scandal.

The agency generated at least \$1 million in the past four years by supplying call girls to an untold number of wealthy clients, prosecutors said.

But its profitable run came to end last week after federal agents shut down the service based on hundreds of intercepted phone calls and text messages. In doing so, the agents also pulled back the curtain on a lucrative

operation.

"This is definitely at the high end," said Ron Weitzer, a sociology professor at George Washington University and an expert on the sex industry.

Mark Brener, 62, and Cecil "Katie" Suwal, 23, are accused of running the agency.

Brener, an Israeli native with an expertise in financial consulting, recruited the prostitutes and marketed the club, and Suwal,

who graduated from the prestigious Blair Academy in New Jersey, handled its day-to-day operations, prosecutors said.

The business apparently didn't need much to get started other than cell phones and a tempting Web site that offered call-girl profiles.

Take "Anais" for instance.

"Her vibrant personality and positive, free-spirited perspective ensure the perfect evening.

Meet gorgeous Anais and discover the splendor of life all over again," the Web site said.

Another escort named "Maya" claims to have won the Miss Hawaiian Tropic contest and has an "incomparable look and electrifying presence."

The Emperors Club offered more than 50 girls, saying they are "the types of women who can handle themselves well in

See SCANDAL on Page 20

Mrs. Spitzer a behind-the-scenes force

By MICHAEL GORMLEY

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Silda Wall Spitzer wore a blank, shellshocked, puffy-eyed expression as she stood by her husband throughout the tawdry call-girl scandal that would cost him the governor's mansion.

It's an image those close to her could barely recognize.

"It wasn't real to me," one close aide to Gov. Eliot Spitzer said, "until I saw her face."

That stoic Silda Wall Spitzer bore little resemblance to the person she was before this week shattered her family.

In private, Spitzer aides say, she had urged her husband to fight before many of the sordid, extensive accusations came out.

In public, the brilliant Harvard Law attorney didn't offer a defense. The radiant Southerner didn't offer her disarming smile. The devoted mother didn't say a word.

Through the years she has been the stand-up political wife, both a behind-the-scenes force in her husband's career and a protector of their three daughters.

In 2007, the freshman governor was snared in a scandal over a plot to embarrass the state's top Republican. The tabloids screamed the story for months, calling Spitzer "Eliot Mess," a spoiled rich kid, a thug, and worse. While Spitzer tried to laugh it off, his wife became distraught. She kept wondering aloud whether it was all worth it.

And at the holidays last year, Time magazine wanted a family shot of the Spitzers. She nearly called it off.

"You have a teenage daughter," she told a top staffer. "Can you imagine what it would be like if her picture was in Time and it was not a flattering photo?"

Silda Wall, a hard-charging, young associate lawyer in Manhattan with the brightest of futures, married Eliot Spitzer in 1987, but she became Silda Wall Spitzer only in 2006, as he was running for governor. The bow to the tradition of taking the husband's last name, the way Hillary Rodham added Clinton to hers, was thought to play better in more



This copy of the cover from the Winter 2007 issue of the magazine 02138, provided by the publication that focuses on Harvard University alumni, shows former New York State Attorney General and Gov. Eliot Spitzer and his wife, Silda Wall Spitzer, posing for an article titled "Power Couples."

conservative upstate.

Wall Spitzer gave interviews about collecting jellies and jams, and tasted regional cuisines of the state. The traditional governor's wife stories were almost painful to those who knew the self-assured woman who could stifle Spitzer with a mere glance over the breakfast table.

Behind the scenes, she played a more familiar role. She would step in at critical junctures, when Spitzer's famously small inner circle of Ivy League male lawyers wasn't enough.

When the iron-jawed, tough-talking attorney general had to trade subpoena power for political diplomacy, it was Wall Spitzer who told him he needed to soften up. She helped shape and

edit some of the television ads widely credited as the best tool in Spitzer's campaign, showing New Yorkers a soft-focus version of Eliot Spitzer. Instead of the fast-talking Ivy League son of a millionaire who often used legal jargon, he was the caring father speaking quietly about the needs of children and the elderly.

In Manhattan, Spitzer's skull sessions with advisers were often on weekends and late at night in their Manhattan apartment overlooking Central Park. Silda was there, giving and getting. But she wouldn't focus solely on law, although she knew it; or on policy, although she knew how to shape it.

She found out about the prostitution ring on Sunday. Her first

recommendation was to fight.

"He thought he should resign from the very beginning," one close aide said. "It was really family and others' suggestion that he should hang on."

But Monday came and the family tragedy became international news. Shortly after The New York Times revealed the story, the governor, with his wife by his side, made a glassy-eyed and vague apology.

Then came more details about high-priced call girls and hotels. Worse, it wasn't isolated. Reports claimed the governor may have dropped \$80,000 on prostitutes over the years.

After two more excruciating days in the increasingly cramped apartment, husband and wife

appeared at a podium again, she standing a little farther away this time, and he resigned.

Friends and aides believe Wall Spitzer will spend time back home with her family. Reached Wednesday in West Jefferson, N.C., her mother Trilby Wall said her daughter returns home as often as possible, usually several times a year.

"I want you to know when I say family, I mean Eliot also," she said. "This is a hard time for the entire family. We love the entire family. We, of course, extend as much comfort as we possibly know how to our daughter. But we also have known Eliot a long time. We love him and he is a part of our family."

Liz Poole graduated high school with Silda in Concord, N.C., a small, former mill town known for the Lowe's Motor Speedway at the center of NASCAR universe.

They were friends who shared many of the same classes. Wall Spitzer was the smart kid and varsity cheerleader who belonged to National Honor Society, National Thespians, marching band, math club and other clubs. In the 1970s, life centered around Friday night football games, dances and high school clubs.

"She was bright and driven," said Poole. "You just knew she was going to make it."

At the Two Leaves and a Bud tea shop on Wednesday, Lina Gibson remembered Silda's quiet confidence and she and Poole offered their old friend some advice from home, and the heart.

"All things pass," Poole said. "They should work on their marriage and decide what's right for them."

"I feel so bad for her," Gibson said. "She had to stand next to her husband when she probably felt like killing him. It was so sad."

Wall Spitzer's mother won't say if she can forgive her son-in-law.

"Don't you think it's enough to say we love and support Eliot and let it go there?" she said. "It's very hard. It's very hard. Love is a very big word. And it takes a lot of the first to overcome the second. You handle the second."

Life & Style

Hospital to fire workers in Spears case

LOSANGELES (AP)—UCLA Medical Center will fire some employees and discipline others for snooping at the confidential medical records of Britney Spears, who was hospitalized in its psychiatric ward, a hospital official told The Associated Press.

Jeri Simpson, the hospital's director of human resources who was involved in the investigations of the confidentiality breach, confirmed the action but could not say how many employees were affected. The

hospital did not say when the snooping took place or which of Spears records were looked at.

The Los Angeles Times reported on its Web site Friday that the breaches occurred during Spears' most recent hospital stay. While the disciplined employees were unable to access her psychiatric records, they did look at non-psychiatric records from her previous visits to the medical center, the Times reported.

The newspaper said more than 13 employees, none of whom are doctors, would be

fired. Twelve others, including several doctors, will be disciplined otherwise for looking at her computerized records, it reported.

There is no evidence that any employee leaked or sold the information about Spears, who is a tabloid favorite, according to the Times. Still, such snooping is a violation of state and federal medical privacy laws and the state Department of Public

Health had opened an investigation of the hospital, the newspaper reported.

This is not the first time the hospital has had to reprimand employees for looking at Spears' records. Several workers were fired after they were caught snooping after Spears gave birth

to her first son, Sean

Preston, in September 2005.

"It's not only surprising, it's very frustrating and it's very dis-



Spears

appointing," Simpson told the newspaper, adding that she felt "horrible" that it happened again.

Spears

was admitted to the hospital twice in January under a state law allowing patients to be held against their will for up to 72 hours for evaluation if they are deemed a danger to themselves or others. On her second trip to the medical center, Spears stayed for nearly a week.

Leading up to the hospitalizations, Spears had been behaving bizarrely. She shaved her head, was seen in public

without underwear, ran over a celebrity photographer's foot and attacked a vehicle with an umbrella.

After her Feb. 6 release, a judge placed Spears and her estate under a temporary conservatorship. Conservatorships are granted for people deemed unable to take care of themselves or their affairs.

Spears has since had very limited contact with her toddler sons who are under the sole physical and legal custody of her ex-husband Kevin Federline.

ies as the escort service.

"One of the many ways by which we create and add special value to already extraordinarily affluent lives, is by enabling direct access to some of the world's most captivating, authentic contemporary art available," the art club's Web site said.

Itzler, the well-known pimp who got out of prison about seven months ago, said the Emperors Club had an excellent business model. He was impressed with its Web site, the photography and the writing used to hype the women.

Recruiting was also a challenge. The agency couldn't provide adequate variety in Miami or enough women for one client. One potential prostitute complained the payments were not enough.

"This is the kind of money I make very easily in photo shoots," she wrote. She also didn't like the idea of having sex twice in an hour and then not getting dinner.

"I don't think this is my kind of thing," she said.

The Emperors Club was also linked to another business: the Emperors Club (of) Contemporary Art. It's not clear if this was just another way to access the escort service and if the women were the "art." The art club served New York, Los Angeles, Miami, London and Paris—the same cit-

"Logically any escort agency that has the ability to attract Eliot Spitzer could attract other people who are similar. It would be ridiculous to assume that Eliot Spitzer is the only high-profile guy attracted to this agency."

THREE WISE GUYS

Automated female voices, peeling potatoes

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK

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Gentlemen:

LOVE your column and hope you can help with this question: In describing a Global Positioning System, a friend referred to it as "she." When I asked him why, he said the voice was female. That started me thinking: Of the disembodied voices I hear during the day, most are female (on the subway; on automated answering systems at utilities, banks, etc.). Can you explain this?—Pat

Dan: This is a great question, but I think the answer would sound a lot better if it came from a woman, so we've asked our colleague Libby Copeland to give it a shot.

Libby: I myself have a GPS device. My husband and I have programmed her to speak in a British accent because we think it sounds more refined. She still gets us lost. Here's the thing: I'd rather take directions from a woman, just as I'd rather have a woman tell me the subway doors are about to close on my leg. I feel as though all those soulless prerecorded women's voices are looking out for me. A man's voice would sound less nurturing, too orderly. Too ... German. I want a relationship with the faceless bureaucracy that is imposing order on my daily routine.

Joe: To follow up on Libby's answer—and because we have a particular fondness for pretentious responses—we'd like to invoke a little poetry here. As you can tell from this stanza, the 19th-century English poet John Clare clearly anticipated the effect that public announcements made by a woman might have:

*As her sweet voice came mingling on the ear:
Ah, who but knows what woman's voice can do!
To every soul such melody is dear;
Angelic harmony, and beauty too!*

We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

• • •

Dear Wise Guys:

I was peeling potatoes yesterday and wondered about the correct method. Do you peel the potato away from you or pull the peeler toward you? My low-cost peeler worked better coming toward me, but I was always taught to peel away from myself!—Linda

Justin: I am pretty sure you aren't going to do too much damage either way with a standard vegetable peeler, but I figure it's best to consult an expert whenever sharp blades are involved. Stephanie Barrett, lead kitchen assistant and knife skills instructor (talk about a cool job) at Sur La Table in Arlington, Va., agreed that potato peeling is a matter of personal preference. "I peel away from me, but I know people who peel towards them," she says.

If you are still concerned, Stephanie offers this alternative: "Cut off each end and then set the potato upright on the counter and use a knife to slice down each side." She admits that this isn't her preferred style. "I honestly think the right way to peel a potato is the one where you don't cut yourself." I think we can all agree on that.

Joe: When did this column turn into Hints From Heloise?

SCANDAL

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any situation." They were given diamond ratings, which allowed the agency to charge more. More diamonds equaled more money.

To handle the trysts, the club sought out reliable booking agents - smart, efficient women who could bring client and call girl together without hassles.

According to court records, the two primary booking agents were Tania Hollander, 36, and Temeka Lewis, 23. Hollander is a SUNY Binghamton graduate, and Lewis who attended the University of Virginia, one of the top public schools in the country.

The idea behind the agency was conceived in December 2004, according to the federal complaint. That year, Suwal created a shell company called QAT Consulting Group and later QAT International - both fronts for the agency, authorities said.

Clients could pay for the services with money orders or wire transfers and even use their American Express cards.

"A big component of the operation is to give some sort of comfort to the patron," said Barry Agulnick, who represented Jason Itzler, one of New York's most notorious pimps. "That's why you have these shell corporations. This is the blanket of security for the johns."

Wealthy clients wanted assurance that they wouldn't be exposed.

One client asked Lewis if there was any "traceability." He added that "you sometimes hear of these agencies getting busted, you know. That's my really only concern," according to court papers.

Lewis reassured him: "You're fine."

The clients generally seemed pleased with the women, though one complained that a particular prostitute was "more sex than sexy."

But the women could be difficult at times, according to the criminal complaint. One woman missed her appointment, and the agency suspected drug use. Brener ultimately decided not to use the woman anymore, the papers said.

Drugs had gotten in the way:

BLACK

From Page 19

plex in the heart of Harlem.

"He's a good man from a good home who worked hard, and he knows what our people have gone through," retired plumber Thomas Baxter said in an interview a few blocks from Paterson's home. "But this should have happened 40 years ago—a black man becoming governor."

For Paterson, politics is the family business. His father, Basil, a former state senator representing Harlem and later New York's first black secretary of state, was part of a political fraternity that included fellow Democrats U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins—the city's first black mayor—and former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton.

Spitzer picked Paterson as his running mate, in part, for

his experience as a legislator, something Spitzer lacked coming into the governor's office. The former attorney general had no experience in the Legislature when he was elected.

In a news conference Thursday, Paterson reflected on his political career.

"In some ways, I feel that I'm sitting on a sand castle that other people built," Paterson said. "There are so many African-Americans, both men and women throughout the past couple of centuries, who have struggled unrelentingly to try to advance opportunity for all people and for themselves."

He went on to say that if his newfound fortune makes him a role model for blacks, the disabled, Hispanics, women or other groups underrepresented in the top echelons of power, "I would feel very privileged, very proud and very flattered to be in this position."

In interviews around the state, it was clear this week that he

has touched a chord in the black community.

"I believe with the help of the others he will do an excellent job," Eva Jeter said from behind the counter of her gift shop at the Broadway Market in an economically distressed part of Buffalo. "It shouldn't matter what race you are, it's whatever you're capable of doing. We all are human beings, regardless of our ethnicity."

William Jackson, who was having a cup of coffee at the market, was also celebrating Paterson's luck. "I think it's great, though too bad he had to make it like that," he said.

Vinita Hall, a bookkeeper in Rochester, agreed.

"It's exciting to see a difference, to see change," she said. "It's nice to see that someone of color is in power."

Though Paterson becomes New York's first black governor—and only the third nationwide since Reconstruction—he's not the first who aimed for



New York Lt. Gov. David Paterson speaks during a news conference at the state Capitol in Albany, N.Y., Thursday, March 13, 2008.

the top office.

Former State Comptroller H. Carl McCall was the first black candidate for governor on a major party line; he lost to Republican George Pataki in 2002.

Mercado seemed destined for 'Idol' stage



American Idol contestant Syesha Mercado attends the "American Idol" annual Top 12 Party in this March 6, 2008, file photo in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP)—Syesha Mercado is one of those determined "American Idol" contestants who realized her gift early, jumped on the path to stardom and didn't stop trudging until she reached television's biggest stage.

The striking 21-year-old singer, dancer and actress grew up performing in the Sarasota area before moving to Miami for college. She's been singing since she was a toddler in a musical family that included three sisters and mother Zelda, a former Motown backup singer.

As a child, Syesha—it's pronounced "sigh-EE-sha"—sang in church and grew accustomed to performing in public—she once sang the "National Anthem" at a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. Her turns in musicals such as "Pippin" and "Seussical: The Musical" at a Sarasota arts high school drew raves. She's acted in commercials, sang in a band, won a car in a statewide singing contest and even appeared briefly on a reality TV show.

So nobody back home is surprised that she's standing among the final 11 on the Fox TV show that has the potential to make her a household name. And, they say, it couldn't happen to a nicer person.

"When she was going to high school, she was aspiring to do that kind of thing. I remember she and her friends talking about it," said Johnnie Mnich, theater director in the elite performing

arts program at Booker High School. "I think it was a matter of time before it happened. She knows what she wants, and she knows what she's good at."

Mnich recalls marveling at Mercado's talent when she won the lead in the musical "Once on This Island" as a sophomore.

"I was just blown away," he said. "I was amazed at the level of expertise and strength and training."

Bruce Merkle, 20, spent all four years in the Booker arts program acting and singing with Mercado. They shared their first stage kiss in "Once on This Island."

"She's sounded like that since she was 14, as long as I can remember," said Merkle, now a stage actor and still close friends with Mercado. "She's the real deal. And she's genuinely a nice person. She's very grounded and knows what she wants."

While in middle school, Mercado was accepted into a program for low-income children that involved mentoring and an eventual college scholarship. Her positive attitude, big singing voice and lack of pretense won people over from the beginning. She got to meet former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush as part of the program, and he promptly asked her to sing for him.

"We were all just in awe of her singing ability, and you meet her and she's just as sweet as her voice sounds," said Lisa Bechtold, local director of the

scholarship program, called "Take Stock in Children."

Bechtold said Mercado's sunny disposition never wavered, even after her family lost their house in a fire while she was in high school. In an early "American Idol" interview, she talked about her father, Jose, struggling with drug and alcohol addiction and being in and out of her life. He recently graduated from a rehab program.

"She's had lots of hurdles in life, but I've never heard her complain," Bechtold said.

After graduating from Booker in 2005, Mercado studied theater briefly at Florida International University in Miami but left to pursue acting and singing. She was chosen for a 2006 ABC-TV reality show called "The One: Making of a Music Star," but few people watched and it was quickly canceled.

A few weeks ago, acerbic "Idol" judge Simon Cowell hailed Mercado as "one of the most talented girls in the competition," but her take on the Beatles' "Got to Get You Into My Life" on Tuesday night drew only lukewarm praise from the three judges.

She ended up in the bottom three, but survived as David Hernandez was sent packing instead on Wednesday night. That thrilled her admirers, who have dubbed themselves "Syesha's Fanshass."

"I'm living my dream right now," she said on the show Wednesday.

Tulsa singer Cook rocks 'American Idol'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Beneath the shaggy hair and mild-mannered demeanor of "American Idol" contestant David Cook is a seasoned musician who's rocked his way through the gritty club scene in America's heartland.

The 25-year-old native of Blue Springs, Mo., brought his aspiring music career to Tulsa two years ago after graduating from Central Missouri State University with a degree in graphic design. But despite a college degree and even a few career opportunities, Cook's friends and band mates from Tulsa say there's nothing Cook would rather be doing than performing and making music.

"He's the real thing," said Jeff Martinson, the owner of the Blank Slate complex of clubs in downtown Tulsa's Blue Dome district, where Cook bartended and enjoyed a flourishing musical career before landing a spot on the Fox Television program.

"He's gone out and actually played hundreds of gigs in bars in front of, sometimes, five people. He's the real deal in the sense that regardless of what happens in this competition, he'll still be out playing three nights a week."

Cook attended Blue Springs South High School, where he played baseball, showed promise in theater and debate and played with his high school band, Axium.

"He was involved in a lot of different activities, but no matter what he did, there was always music," said Susan Cooper, Cook's theater teacher. "You could tell that was his passion."

While playing the nightclub scene with Axium while in college, Cook became familiar with Tulsa's music scene after the band opened a gig for a popular Tulsa-based group, Midwest Kings.

"We all gelled and kept in touch over the years, and eventually David came down to be a guitar player for Midwest Kings," said Josh Center, a session drummer who plays with the band.

Cook's opportunity with an established band exposed him to the hardworking music scene in and around Tulsa and let him cut his teeth in various music venues. The regional touring band frequently piled into a 15-passenger van and played a mix of shows in Oklahoma cities like Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Norman, Stillwater, as well as cities in Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, Center said.

Cook mainly played guitar and sang backup vocals for the group, but in the meantime worked on separate projects, including a solo album titled

"Analog Heart."

Martinson, the club owner, said the experience Cook gained touring with Midwest Kings is proving invaluable for Cook as he works his way through "American Idol."

"He's gone places musically that some of these kids haven't even seen," Martinson said.

For Center, who admits Cook's appearance on the show has "sucked him in," he's enjoyed watching Cook improve his skills as a front man.

"The level of comfort he has when he's moving. He's always had a guitar, and singing without one has always been a level of concern. David is now grasping that concept and getting it."

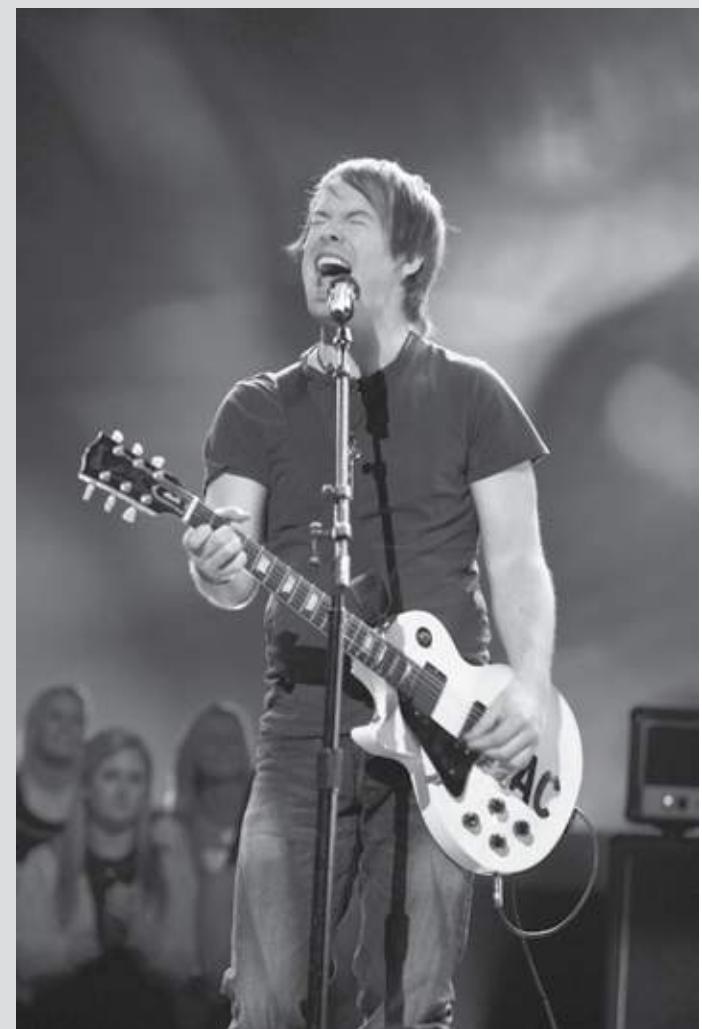
"He looks comfortable and really engages the crowd."

The judges on the show apparently agree. During a cover on last week's program of The Beatles classic "Eleanor Rigby," Cook impressed all three judges - even Simon Cowell.

"If this show remains a talent competition rather than a popularity competition, you actually could win this entire show," Cowell told Cook after the performance.

For Cook's friends and fellow musicians, they say the young crooner is just warming up.

"He's a great guy with a tremendous voice," Martinson said. "And one of the things he's got on all these people in this competition is that he's got several more gears to go into."



In this image released by FOX, American Idol contestant David Cook performs, Tuesday, March 4, 2008, in Los Angeles. AP

Aretha may lose her Detroit mansion

DETROIT (AP)—Aretha Franklin could lose her home to tax collectors. The singer says an attorney's mistake caused her \$700,000 mansion in Detroit to slip into foreclosure over \$445 in 2005 taxes and late fees.

The Detroit Free Press reports Thursday the Queen of Soul

owes a total of \$19,192 in back taxes on the property through 2007. She says she plans to pay up and reclaim it by a March 31 deadline.

A spokesman for the Wayne County treasurer's office says the foreclosure judgment for \$445 was entered earlier this

month.

Records show Franklin owes \$18,746 in back taxes and fees for the 2006 and 2007 tax years, but foreclosure proceedings on those debts wouldn't begin until next year.

Franklin's slate-roofed brick mansion was built in 1927.

Court says OK for Gere to visit India



Hollywood actor Richard Gere, left, hugs and kisses Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty during an event for HIV-AIDS awareness in New Delhi, India, in this March 15, 2007 file photo.

NEW DELHI (AP)—Richard Gere is free to go back to India—and he may have a new reason to book a trip.

India's top court suspended an arrest warrant Friday against Gere, wanted for allegedly breaking public obscenity laws by kissing Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at a public AIDS awareness event last year.

"Gere is allowed to come and leave. He can't be arrested," said Anil Grover, an attorney for Shetty, after attending the Supreme Court proceedings.

Chief Justice K. G. Balakrishnan and Justice R. V. Raveendran indefinitely stayed the arrest warrant issued against the actor last year by a court in the northwestern Indian city of Jaipur, Grover told The Associated Press.

Gere embraced and kissed Shetty on her cheek at the public AIDS awareness event in New Delhi on April 15 last year, prompting Hindu hard-liners to allege the pair had offended the sensibilities of India's traditionally conservative culture. Hindu activists filed three cases against Gere and Shetty last year, including one in Jaipur.

Shortly after the cases were filed by Hindu activists, Gere apologized for any offense he may have caused, but he also said the whole controversy was manufactured by a small hard-line political party.

The 58-year-old Buddhist actor and longtime Tibetan supporter is

a frequent visitor to India, promoting health issues and the cause of Tibetan exiles, tens of thousands of whom live in India.

As rioting erupted Friday in Tibet's capital of Lhasa, Gere said the protests led by Buddhist monks weren't unexpected.

"I'm saddened but I can't say I'm surprised," the actor told The Associated Press in an interview. "You can't repress the people to the extent that Tibetans have been repressed for the last six decades now and not expect that at some point that it will explode."

The official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday that seven people have been confirmed dead in rioting. Eyewitness accounts and photos posted on the Internet portrayed a chaotic scene in Lhasa, with crowds hurling rocks at security forces, hotels and restaurants. The U.S. Embassy said Americans had reported gunfire.

"One would think that as China becomes the country that they supposedly want to be - a world power, respected - that in fact everything has tightened inside of Tibet," he said.

"The lack of opportunities for Tibetans in general - the lack of education, the destruction of culture and language, the inability to practice their religion - these are the things that make people crazy. And Tibetans are the most nonviolent people on the planet. For them to get to this point you know how bad it has been for them."

2 doctors cleared in John Ritter's death

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP)—A jury cleared a cardiologist and a radiologist Friday of negligence in the diagnosis and treatment of actor John Ritter, who died of a torn aorta in 2003. Jurors found that the radiologist advised Ritter to follow up with treatment by a physician after a body scan two years before his death. Ritter didn't follow the order.

The lawsuit was brought by Ritter's widow and children. The 9-3 verdict means there is no damage judgment against the doctors.

Radiologist Matthew Lotysch testified he told Ritter he had calcification in three coronary arteries and should consult other doctors. But in a related finding, the jury decided that Ritter's failure to pursue that medical consultation was not a cause of his death.

Defense testimony characterized the aortic dissection as lethal and contended that even with surgery the outcome would have been the same.

Attorney Stephen C. Fraser, who represented Lotysch, credited jurors with being sophisticated and intelligent.

"The system worked and we're very, very happy that they did the right thing," Fraser said.

The family's attorney, Michael Plonsker, stood by the wrongful death lawsuit's claims.

"We are still convinced these doctors did something inappropriate but the jury system worked," he said.

lion in future earnings. Eight other medical personnel and the hospital previously made settlements with the family totaling \$14 million.

During the trial, attorneys for the family sought to show that Lee rushed to a faulty diagnosis and failed to have a chest X-ray taken that would have revealed the torn aorta, resulting in surgery that would have saved him.

Testimony showed that an X-ray was ordered as soon as Ritter arrived at the emergency room but for unknown reasons it was never done. Lee was called in later in the evening after Ritter was already diagnosed with a heart attack.

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John Ritter, star of the series "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter," arrives with wife, Amy Yasbeck, for the 54th Annual Prime-time Emmy Awards, Sept. 22, 2002, in Los Angeles.

Can Spitzer call girl cash in?

NEW YORK (AP)—The collateral consequence of scandal often is newfound celebrity, and for the 22-year-old call girl involved in the Eliot Spitzer prospects are rising.

The prostitute identified in court papers as Kristen is an aspiring musician named Ashley Alexandra Dupre. Her identity was only first reported Wednesday, but already her fame is skyrocketing.

Curious about the woman so integral in the New York governor's downfall, many have flocked to MySpace to view her photos, music and biographical information. That material was removed Thursday after over more than 5 million visited her page.

Dupre's page had portrayed her as a New Jersey native who left a broken home to pursue a music career in New York. Court papers allege that Spitzer paid thousands of dollars for her services with the Emperor's Club VIP.

"I have been alone," she wrote. "I have abused drugs. I have been broke and homeless. But, I survived, on my own. I am here, in NY because of my music."

Dupre had also posted two songs at the music sharing site Aime Street, which allows musicians to earn a 70 percent cut of download fees, which are determined by their popularity. The songs, "What We Want" and "Move ya Body" are dance-pop tunes a la Britney Spears.

On "What We Want," she sings: "I know what you need/ Can you handle me?"

As of Thursday evening, the songs had been listened to by some 200,000. Downloads were selling for 98 cents each, though "What We Want" had previously been selling for less than 20 cents. That song was also making it onto the nation's radio airwaves.

"After the first play, a lot of the reaction was negative," said Sharon Dastur, program director of New York's Z100 (WHTZ-FM). "But after the second play, it became, 'Play that song again,' and 'Hey, that song's not bad.'"

Dupre also made an appearance in a video by the rapper Mysterious, director Jonathan Ehlers told Los Angeles TV station KCAL on Tuesday. In the video, Dupre is cast as the girlfriend of Mysterious, at one point making a vulgar hand gesture while lip-synching lyrics that include an expletive.

"She was very professional," Ehlers said. "Again, she was really warm. She had a great vibe and she was really fun to be around."

He said they haven't talked

in a year. When he heard the news, Ehlers said, "I was shocked. All I could think was, I wondered where she was and I hoped she was all right."

Major labels would be unlikely to sign Dupre, but in the past smaller labels have taken a stab at capitalizing on such notoriety. Koch Entertainment profited by releasing an album in 2004 by William Hung, the "American Idol" castoff who horrendously sang "She Bangs." (Koch declined to comment Thursday on interest in signing Dupre.)

Susan Ferris, general manager of Los Angeles-based indie label Long Live Crime Records, thinks Dupre is unlikely to win a recording contract.

"Would it get her foot in the door here? There would probably be a morbid curiosity," Ferris said, noting that Nicole Narain, the Playboy model who Colin Farrell sued in 2005 over a sex tape, submitted music to the label that she sampled but deemed "god-awful."

"It's the train-wreck syndrome," said Ferris. "Out of complete curiosity, sure, I would put (the tape) in. Would I then sign her if I didn't think she was great just because of the controversy? No, not at all."

Dupre has not responded to requests for an interview by The Associated Press, and her lawyer, Don D. Buchwald, has declined to comment. The New York Times, which first reported Dupre's identity, quoted her as saying: "I just don't want to be thought of as a monster."

Publishers also would be interested in her story for a book, said Eric Kampmann, president of Beaufort Books.

Beaufort last year published O.J. Simpson's "If I Did It: Confessions of the Killer," but Kampmann said he would not pursue Dupre's story since "up until now, she had no story."

"There's just kind of this prurient fascination that neither the press nor the public can get their eyes off of," said Kampmann, who compared the situation to Amy Fisher's and Joey Buttafuoco's. In 2004, iUniverse published Fisher's book "If I Knew Then."

Following the scandals of former President Clinton, Jennifer Flowers published a memoir in 1995, and Monica Lewinsky made inroads into the entertainment industry, hosting a short-lived reality TV dating program called "Mr. Personality" in 2003.

There is one surefire avenue for Dupre to cash in, should she choose to: adult men's magazines. Penthouse and Hustler are already knocking on her door.



Hilton to select new BFF on reality show

NEW YORK (AP)—Paris Hilton is looking for a new best friend. Hilton will choose from 20 potential confidantes on an MTV reality series, tentatively titled "Paris Hilton's My New BFF," premiering later this year, the network announced Thursday.

Production is scheduled to begin in Los Angeles at the end of May, MTV said. The contestants will live together in a house—drama!—and try to prove themselves worthy in the areas of loyalty, endurance and "girl politics."

Hilton, an executive producer on the show, will "teach the secrets of celebrity living—how to turn your enchanted life into a multimillion dollar brand, how to manage public feuds and always rise above, how to survive scandal and then make it work for you, all the

while wearing 6-inch heels."

A casting call has kicked off on ParisBFF.com, where visitors can vote for Hilton's aspiring hangers-on.

The 27-year-old hotel heiress continues to command attention despite speculation her star power would diminish following her jail stint last June. Hilton—flanked by her boyfriend, Good Charlotte guitarist Benji Madden—sat in the front row Tuesday at the L.A. Fashion Week show for 24-year-old sister Nicky Hilton's Nicholai line.

Madden's twin brother, Good Charlotte singer Joel Madden, and close Hilton pal Nicole Richie are the parents of a 2-month-old daughter, Harlow Winter Kate Madden.

Hilton and Richie co-starred in "The Simple Life" reality TV series.

Paris Hilton attends a press conference for her new show on MTV "Paris Hilton's My New BFF" in Los Angeles on March 13, 2008. AP

Dennis Quaid talks about twins' overdose

NEW YORK (AP)—Dennis Quaid describes a harrowing scene with "blood everywhere" as doctors and nurses worked to save his newborn twins after they were given an overdose of a blood thinner.

"They were working on (my son) Boone whose belly button would not stop bleeding, and while they were trying to ... clamp it, blood squirted across the room about six feet and landed on the wall. It was blood everywhere," the actor recalls to CBS' "60 Minutes."

The twin boy and girl born to Quaid and wife Kimberly by a surrogate mother were mistakenly given an overdose of heparin, a blood thinner, administered at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles last November.

"We all have this inherent thing that we trust doctors and nurses that they know what they're doing," Quaid says in his first at-length TV interview about the ordeal. "But this mistake occurred right under our noses, that the nurse didn't bother to look at the dosage on the bottle."

Quaid, 53, said the twins' blood turned "the consistency of water, where they had a complete inability to clot. And they were basically bleeding out at that point."

Quaid says he and his wife weren't notified that anything was wrong until they arrived at the hospital. The Quaids say they blame the error on the similarity between vials of heparin and a significantly weaker version of the drug.

In December, they sued Baxter Healthcare Corp., based in Deerfield, Ill., saying the drug maker was negligent in packaging different doses of the product in similar vials with blue backgrounds.

A similar incident in Indiana (resulting in the deaths of three infants) moved Baxter to redesign packaging and issue a warning to hospitals.

"They recall dog food that came from China last year," Quaid says. "But they don't recall medicine that kills people if you give it in the wrong dosage. ... We think it's wrong."



Actor Dennis Quaid and wife Kimberly arrive at the premiere of "Vantage Point" at AMC Lincoln Square Theatres, in this Feb. 20, 2008, file photo in New York. AP

In an interview with "60 Minutes," Baxter executive Debra Bello explains that "the product was safe and effective, and the errors, as the hospital has acknowledged, were preventable and due to failures in their system."

Ed McMahon recovering from neck injury

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The publicist for Ed McMahon says the former "Tonight Show" sidekick broke his neck in a fall last year and is recovering after two surgeries.

Susan DuBow says the fall happened last March.

In a statement Tuesday, the 85-year-old McMahon says it's been a tough year, but he's

working hard in rehab.

DuBow says she is not allowed to release any further information for legal reasons.

She says McMahon was recently seen walking around at a public event in a neck brace.

McMahon is perhaps best known as Johnny Carson's sidekick for decades on "The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson."

'Girls Gone Wild' founder back in Cali

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Joe Francis is back to work promoting his "Girls Gone Wild" products after returning to California from Florida, where he pleaded no contest to child abuse and prostitution.

Francis claimed during a Beverly Hills news conference Thursday that he was victorious in the Florida court case, where he was sentenced to time served

and fines. The case involved filming of underage girls.

The producer of videos showing young women in sexually provocative situations is now touting a new "Girls Gone Wild" magazine and tequila. Francis recently returned to Florida after months in jail in Reno, where he still faces trial on federal tax evasion charges that carry a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

New York Yankees release Billy Crystal



Actor and comedian Billy Crystal holds a baseball he signed for Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Paul Maholm who struck him out in the first inning of the New York Yankees spring baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Legends Field in Tampa, Fla., Thursday, March 13, 2008 as the pair sit in the dugout during an interview after the game. AP

Childhood drownings still haunt man 30 years later

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to a wonderful man. "Dave" and I are in our late 30s.

When Dave was about 5, he was with two of his cousins who were about the same age. The three were inseparable. While they were playing, the smaller cousin fell into a pond, and the older one jumped in after him and tried to save him. All my husband could do was stand and watch as both of his little cousins—his best friends—drowned before his eyes. He ran for help, but by then it was too late.

I know most of the story from my mother-in-law, as Dave is unwilling to talk about it.

Last night, I went upstairs and there was my darling, weeping uncontrollably. Dave told me that he lives with horrible depression every day because of what happened, and he can't get past it. I want my husband to see a grief counselor, but he refuses because he doesn't think he'd be able to talk about it.

Abby, I love my husband. He doesn't deserve to live with this horror for the rest of his life. How can I convince him to get professional help?

HURTING FOR MY HUSBAND



Dear Abby

DEAR HURTING: Remind Dave that when this happened, he was only 5, and under the circumstances, he did everything he could to save his cousins. Although this incident, which has haunted him all these years, will be difficult to talk about, it's the only way to rid himself of the feelings of helplessness and survivor guilt from which he is clearly suffering.

Talking to a counselor will help him to reclaim his life and rid himself of his depression. For a couple of sessions, he may indeed just sit there and cry. But tears can be healing. And eventually he WILL be able to talk about what happened.

Clip this column, give it to your husband, and tell him that I, too, am urging him to get the help he needs. He's in my thoughts and prayers, and the longest journey begins with a single step.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in the process of creating a will. We have a 29-year-old son, married, with two young daughters. We also have a single 25-year-old son.

I have an engagement diamond with matching wedding band, and a mother's ring with diamonds and rubies. Both are of great sentimental value to me. Because I don't have a daughter, what is standard etiquette? My instinct is to will them to both granddaughters, but I don't want my daughter-in-law to feel slighted. She's very important to me. Any "rules" on this one?

WONDERING IN MINNESOTA

DEAR WONDERING: Leave them to your granddaughters. Upon your death, they should go to your daughter-in-law for "safekeeping" until the girls are old enough to appreciate both their monetary and sentimental value.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently at a family gathering with my husband's family. His uncle was hosting the party, and his wife asked me a question that I honestly didn't know the answer to.

His uncle's wife asked me how she should introduce me to their friends. Should she say, "This is our nephew's wife" or should she introduce me as their "niece"? What's the right answer for a situation like this?

NANCY IN ARNOLD, MD.

DEAR NANCY: Tell your husband's aunt that the next time she makes the introductions, she should say, "This is our nephew, 'Bob,' and his lovely wife, Nancy," and to say it with a smile.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

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- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical/compensation. Contact: Leticia Reyes dba LR Consulting & Construction @233-0691/323-0691.

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Salary:\$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speaking, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

1 MARKETING MANAGER (FSUN 0052)

Salary:\$1,200.00-\$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arrange; medical & workers compensation insurance employer provided. Korean speak-

ing, reading and writing is a must. Contact: Blue Star Corporation dba Saipan Island Tour @287-1259.

1 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (FSUN 0053)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Fashion Company dba Li Hua Dress Shop @234-1282.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0054)

Salary:\$615.33-\$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: American Global Voice Ltd. dba VIP Massage @233-8119.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (FSUN 0055)

Salary:\$650.00-\$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Arenas Enterprises, Inc. dba Oche's Mini Store @233-6850.

3 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (FSUN 0060)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; self provided food; w/ transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR (FSUN 0056)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Sim Corporation @235-2162.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0057)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 GAS ATTENDANT (FSUN 0058)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Selfarranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

1 COOK HELPER (FSUN 0059)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; worker compensation insurance. Contact: Park Corpora-

tion dba Dae Jang Kum Restaurant @234-9595.

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Salary:\$615.33-\$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

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Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; worker compensation insurance and medical provided. Contact: Bernadita R. Cabrera dba North Shore Marine Sports @483-9991.

1 STORE MANAGER (SUNT 0026)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical reimbursable & workmen's compensation. Contact: Arenas Enterprises, Inc. dba Oche's Mini Store @233-6850.

3 BLDG. MAINTENANCE

REPAIRER (FSUN 0060)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; self provided food; w/ transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Commercial Trading of Saipan Inc. dba The Water Co., @234-6089.

4 SALES ROUTE DRIVER (FSUN 0061)

Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; self provided food; w/transportation service; workmen compensation & medical expense. Contact: Fabriclean of CNMI Inc. dba Marianas Cleaners @234-5323/6239.

1 DRY CLEANER SPECIALIST (SUNT 0029)

Salary:\$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; workmen compensation & free medical. Contact: Fabriclean of CNMI Inc. dba Marianas Cleaners @234-6239/5323.

1 AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC (SUNT 0030)

Salary:\$3.55-\$7.00/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self arrange food; employee provided transportation; workmens compensation & medical expense. Contact: Saipan Yamas Co., Inc. dba Saipan Limousine Service @322-0239.

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Vijay Singh seizes control at Bay Hill



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) —

Vijay Singh still had a 15-foot birdie putt that rolled and wiggled and bumped and eventually slid by the hole. By this point, he only smiled.

"Runs like a fairway," he said under a breath.

But they are the same for everybody, and scoring has been reasonable.

Pettersson opened with three straight birdies on his way to a 65. Former U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk, coming off an unproductive West Coast Swing, birdied the last hole for 67, leaving him in the group at 134 that included Lee Westwood (68) and Ken Duke (67).

Singh finally exorcised his demons at Bay Hill last year with a comfortable two-shot victory, giving him 31 career victories to tie Harry "Light-horse" Cooper for most by a foreign-born player.

They're still tied.

Singh has gone more than a year without winning, and it was only a month ago that he squandered a three-shot lead with five holes to play at Pebble Beach, losing to Steve Lowery in a playoff.

That didn't make him nearly as sick as a trip to India two weeks ago for the Johnnie Walker Classic.

"Tried to eat clean and drink bottled water, and it didn't work," Singh said. "I got the flu and a stomach virus, so both things were not very good. I came back on Monday and just never left the bathroom for four days. It was almost a forced rest."

Singh says his fitness regimen from the offseason helped him recover quickly, and he has felt himself getting stronger with each day. It helps, of course, to chip in twice, including an eagle on the sixth hole that gave him the outright lead.

He also chipped in from 40 feet short of the par-3 14th green, and that's one way to



Vijay Singh, of Fiji, watches his tee shot on the 16th hole during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Friday, March 14, 2008.

cope with greens that are not in the best shape. Then again,

Singh knows Bay Hill perhaps better than any other course

on the PGA Tour.

Palmer gave him an exemption

Duncan said he's not sure whether he'll appeal.

"I really haven't had much time to really analyze it," he said. "Initially, I feel it is pretty unfair."

"After the incident with Cervelli, I was asked a question. For some reason people assumed I made retaliatory remarks, which I never did."

Tampa Bay and New York meet 18 times during the regular season, starting April 4 at Yankee Stadium.

While the Rays have never come close to New York in the standings, they often play the Yankees tough. The trouble brewed up last weekend when the Rays' Elliot Johnson crashed into Cervelli.

Duncan took exception to the collision and responded four days later with a hard slide into Rays second baseman Akinori Iwamura. Maddon called the

tion before he ever won on the PGA Tour, in 1993, and he has never missed a tournament or a cut. He has played 62 rounds, and this was his 14th consecutive round at par or better.

"Sometimes I don't need a yardage from the caddie," he said. "I just know where to hit it."

Fred Couples, who shared the first-round lead, made four bogeys before finally making a birdie on the 14th and shot 73, leaving him in the group with Woods at 2-under 138.

Another shot behind was Phil Mickelson, who has had a quiet week thus far, although he rallied late to make sure he was around for the weekend. The cut was at 142, and that included amateur Webb Simpson.

Singh is regarded a good front runner, although his PGA Tour record with a 36-hole lead is only 12-10. And there are memories of Pebble Beach, when Singh felt out of sync and looked even worse over the closing holes.

"A lot can happen on this golf course," Furyk said. "A lot of water, a lot of lakes, a lot of catastrophes it seems like. And I've avoided them for two days. Hopefully on the weekend, I can make a few more birdies and a few more putts."

That seems to be a script for Woods' manual at Bay Hill, a tournament he won four straight times, but has not fared better than 20th in the four years since that streak.

He finished his rough with a 3-wood into the rough on the right of the 18th hole, forcing him to hit a 6-iron over the water and the rocks guarding the green, hoping it came out the right way. It landed near the flag, leaving him a 15-foot birdie putt.

And left it short.

"Sums up the whole day right there," Woods said.

MLB suspends Cabrera, Duncan and Gomes



TAMPA, Fla. (AP) —

The shenanigans between the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays will leave them short-handed. Yankees first baseman Shelley Duncan and center fielder Melky Cabrera were suspended for three games and Tampa Bay outfielder Jonny Gomes was docked two games Friday following the latest dustup this week.

"I sure hope we can put this fire out," Gomes said. "Why should we anticipate something?" Yankees captain Derek Jeter said. "So it happens for the next 19 games we play them? No. Why would it linger on? Why would you continue to do it? If something happens, it would be stupid. It gets to a point where it's got to end."

Girardi wasn't worried, either. "I'm sure that there will be a warning tomorrow. I'm sure

posed the suspensions—rare for exhibitions—and took an even more unusual step: It changed the umpire assignments for a spring training game because of brewing trouble.

Determined to stop the Yankees and Rays from turning Saturday's split-squad rematch into a split-lip affair, veteran crew chief Jerry Crawford was added to the original three-man crew.

"They perpetuated the entire situation, and then to have the punishment doled out almost on a similar basis, to me is unjust and it's not right," he said.

Gomes will be part of the Rays' split squad traveling Saturday to play Atlanta. Duncan will stay at Legends Field for the game against Tampa Bay.

"I will not try to get into another team's clubhouse and tell anybody else what to do," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "I just know from my perspective

I thought it was right to keep Jon out of that game tomorrow and let things settle down a bit."

"With the intensity of the situation, it's a little bit too hot and I want it to just cool down," he said.

Maddon will manage the game against the Yankees.

"They will manage the entire situation, and then to have the punishment doled out almost on a similar basis, to me is unjust and it's not right," he said.

Gomes said he was fined \$2,000. He has not decided whether to appeal.

"I've got no problem going to Orlando just to let things simmer down," he said. "I wouldn't take back what I did. I've gotten a lot of positive feedback from other players in the major leagues via text message."

"I just went in for an old-fashioned forearm shimmy and just grabbed the guy," he said.

play "borderline criminal."

"Did his spikes go up a little high? Yes, they did," Girardi said Friday. "You don't want to try to hurt anyone, and I believe Shelley wasn't trying to hurt him."

"Probably rubs some people the wrong way because of the way he plays so hard. But he doesn't rub us the wrong way," he said. "I don't think it's such an incident if there wasn't the hype. It became an incident because of all the rhetoric during the past five to six days."

The Rays claimed Cabrera punched third baseman Evan Longoria during a pileup.

"Obviously I read Melky's comment saying he didn't do anything. Obviously, the commissioner's office saw something different," Rays executive vice president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said.

Major League Baseball im-

Rockets beat Bobcats for 21st straight win



HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets downed the Charlotte Bobcats 89-80 on Friday to record their 21st consecutive victory and take outright possession of the second-longest winning streak in NBA history.

The win moved the Rockets out of a tie with the 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks and they are now behind only the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 straight.

It win also gave Houston a share of top spot in the Western Conference, equal with the Lakers, with the two teams to meet Sunday.

The Bobcats have lost five in a row to Houston.

Jazz 110, Celtics 92

In Boston, Utah snapped Boston's 10-game winning streak.

Deron Williams had 32 points and eight assists and Carlos

Boozer added 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz.

Despite the defeat, the Celtics clinched the Atlantic Division, as nearest rival Toronto also lost.

Boston played three-quarters of the game without Ray Allen, who jammed his left ankle and did not return.

Hornets 108, Lakers 98

In New Orleans, Chris Paul had 27 points and 17 assists to help New Orleans beat Los Angeles in what could prove to be a costly game for both teams.

Paul hobbled to the finish after hurting his left ankle with 2:31 to go. Lakers center Pau Gasol sprained his ankle in the first quarter and David West hurt his right ankle in the final quarter.

Pistons 84, Spurs 80

In Auburn Hills, Michigan,

Richard Hamilton scored 25 points and made an important late three-point play, lifting Detroit over undermanned San Antonio.

The Spurs were without Bruce Bowen (suspension) and Ime Udoka (right ankle).

Magic 103, Heat 94

In Miami, Orlando held off a serious Miami challenge to move closer to clinching an Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Jameer Nelson scored 21 points and Dwight Howard added 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Magic, who trailed by nine points late in the first half and never shook the hapless Heat, who lost for the 34th time in 37 games.

The Magic swept the four-game series with their Florida neighbors for the second straight season and are now 9-1/2 games clear atop the Southeast Division.

Nuggets 137, Raptors 105

In Denver, the hosts blew out Toronto to win their fifth straight at home.

Allen Iverson scored 28 points despite a fractured finger and Carmelo Anthony added 22 for the Nuggets, who posted their second-highest points total of the season. Denver is 13-2 against the Eastern Conference at home this season.

Toronto has dropped three straight to start a five-game road trip and are fifth in the East's playoff standings.

Mavericks 116, Pacers 97

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points, carrying Dallas past Indiana.

New back-up point guard Tyronn Lue had 13 points in 15 minutes for the Mavericks, who won their fourth straight, all at home and all against the weak-

est teams in the weaker Eastern Conference. The streak puts Dallas seventh in the Western Conference playoff race.

Hawks 117, Clippers 93

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 21 of his 28 points in the third quarter to help Atlanta beat Los Angeles.

Mike Bibby handed out 14 assists for the Hawks.

Los Angeles has dropped 10 of 12.

76ers 110, Bulls 106

In Chicago, Philadelphia rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat Chicago.

Andre Iguodala scored 25 points and Rodney Carney had 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter for the 76ers, who trailed 88-70 with 11:08 left, then outscored the Bulls 18-6. Chicago's Ben Gordon had a chance

to tie it with 8.2 seconds left but missed a 3-point try.

The Bulls trail New Jersey by one game for eighth and last playoff-qualifying place in the Eastern Conference.

Philadelphia was 40-for-44 from the free throw line.

Timberwolves 121, SuperSonics 116

In Seattle, Ryan Gomes led seven Minnesota players in double figures with 23 points and 15 rebounds, and Minnesota edged past Seattle.

The Timberwolves pulled away in the final 16 minutes to move within a game of the Sonics, trying to climb out of last place in the Northwest Division. Minnesota won its third straight road game.

The Sonics dropped their seventh straight, playing their first home game in nearly two weeks.

NOBLE

From Page 28

member Rezne Wong, with a time of 28 minutes and 29 seconds. Wong came out of the swim in 27:29.

Staying close behind Noble was five-time Tagaman participant and last year's runner-up Matsumaru as the Chiba, Japan native was the third best swimmer in 30:04.

Matsumaru easily erased Noble's still manageable lead in the bike leg, catching him while they were heading into Beach Road. The Japanese continued to hammer away and built a sizeable lead and was the first biker that went

past the Last Command Post going into the Bird Island loop.

Matsumaru built an almost three-minute lead over Noble, but the Gold Coast, Australia native, who now lives with his wife Candy in Boston, managed to catch his opponent while going down Bird Island.

Noble managed to close in with Matsumaru as they made the turn at Banzai Cliff and headed back to AMP. The two were neck-and-neck from there with Matsumaru finishing first in the bike with a time of 1:31:38, while Noble punched in at 1:34:40 heading into the run.

That was when Noble made his move, passing Matsumaru midway in the run and comple-

ting the Last Command Post going into the Bird Island loop.

Matsumaru finished the run in 51:16, which was three seconds better than his last year's time of 51:19.

Matsumaru finished the run in 55:15 and came in second to Noble with a total time of 2:56:57, shaving off six minutes and 18 seconds off last year's time of 3:03:15.

Ka-On Cho of Korea came in third with times of 30:35 in the swim, 1:34:30 in the bike, and 1:01:52 for a total of 3:06:57.

Almost the same story happened in the women's division, as Bucher again played catch up with 7th Xterra Saipan Championship runner-up Mieko Carey.

They that this time it's going to be different."

Marquez believes his preparation will make the difference. While Pacquiao trained for two punishing months at sea level in Hollywood, Marquez set up camp in Toluca, Mexico, where he made countless runs in the 13,000-foot (4,000-meter) air up the side of Nevado de Toluca, a two-crater volcano.

"I think Juan Manuel is ready because he is a better fighter now," Beristain said. "All this time, we have been working and training and getting better. Manny Pacquiao isn't fighting the same fighter. Juan Manuel is better."

With four years of improved technique and counterpunching acumen, Marquez is a fearsome opponent for Pacquiao, widely considered the second-best pound-for-pound fighter in the world behind Floyd Mayweather Jr. But Pacquiao also has improved under trainer Freddie Roach, notably developing a potent right hook to go with his punishing lefts and nonstop, heedless style.

"To do this fight (Saturday), I made a lot of concessions because they wanted to avoid me," Marquez said. "They wanted for me to say no. I accepted them because I wanted to prove to

Carey was the second female with the best time after the swim with 32:49, more than two minutes behind Japan's Noriko Takano. Bucher was third with a 34:55.

Bucher caught up with Carey in Garapan then slowly pulled away as they enter San Roque and built a good lead going up Banzai Cliff. She logged in 1:47:27 in the bike and completed the run in 1:03:12 for a total time of 3:25:34.

Saipan's Maimi Shimizu came in second with times of 34:57 in the swim, 1:49:50 bike, and 1:05:51 in the run for a total of 3:30:38, while Carey had times of 1:50:45 and 1:08:26 in the bike and run for a 3:32:00 to place third.

a lot you can take from that," Roach said. "You have to get a whole new approach. You don't know how either guy is going to react to the changes that the other guy made, but we think we're ready for it."

National pride also is at stake. Pacquiao has made a career of pounding the Mexican fighters who often dominate his weight divisions, including Barrera and Erik Morales in recent months. Barrera, Morales and Marquez have been boxing-mad Mexico's top champions since Julio Cesar Chavez's decline, and Pacquiao could complete the hat trick with a win over Marquez—or Marquez could become the No. 1 contender for his nation's heart with a victory.

"Pacquiao has a new nickname—the killer of Mexicans," said Barrera, the beloved champion who retired after losing to both Marquez and Pacquiao last year but is mounting a comeback. "Juan Manuel is coming to change history. Pacquiao will have more experience, but Marquez is very good in this fight. I can't say who will win."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
xy-Boston	51	13	.797	—
Toronto	34	31	.523	17 1/2
Philadelphia	32	34	.485	20
New Jersey	27	38	.415	24 1/2
New York	19	46	.292	32 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	43	24	.642	—
Washington	32	32	.500	9 1/2
Atlanta	27	38	.415	15
Charlotte	24	41	.369	18
Miami	11	53	.172	30 1/2

Central Division

x-Detroit	47	18	.723	—
Cleveland	37	29	.561	10 1/2
Chicago	26	39	.400	21
Indiana	25	40	.385	22
Milwaukee	23	42	.354	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	45	20	.692	—
New Orleans	44	20	.688	1/2
San Antonio	44	21	.677	1
Dallas	43	23	.652	2 1/2
Memphis	15	49	.234	29 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	44	23	.657	—
Denver	39	26	.600	4
Portland	34	32	.515	9 1/2
Seattle	16	50	.242	27 1/2
Minnesota	15	49	.234	27 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	45	20	.692	—
Phoenix	43	22	.662	2
Golden State	40	24	.625	4 1/2
Sacramento	29	35	.453	15 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	43	.328	

The Week in Sports

The race that almost never happened

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 7th Xterra Saipan Championship dominated sports headlines last week as Australia's Andrew Noble and Switzerland's Renata Bucher topped the multi-sport event that was scrapped then revived again last year.

Noble won his first-ever Xterra Saipan championship after a blistering time of two hours, 46 minutes, and 51 seconds, while Bucher won her fourth Xterra Saipan title after negotiating the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run off-road race in 3:12:46.

Marianas Visitors Authority initially cancelled Xterra Saipan for 2008, but eventually relented to stage it this year albeit scaled down from a full-fledged \$350,000 organizing gig for Team Unlimited to a \$25,000 licensing agreement, which pretty much left Tagaman organizer, Taga Inc., in charge of the off-road multi-sport event this year.

In other sports news, the Grace Christian Academy Eagles and the Saipan International School Geckos claimed the boys and girls titles of the 2008 Private School League Junior Varsity Basketball League, beating separate foes in the finals held last March 7 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles used a third-quarter scoring rally to cruise to a 62-54 win against Mt. Carmel Knights, while the Lady Geckos went undefeated the whole season before downing the Lady Eagles, 37-23, in the first game of the championship double-header at Oleai.



JON PEREZ

Saipan World Resort's Jerryel Mangahis, left, tries to score against Hyatt Regency Saipan's Edmark Mendoza in their game in the 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League last March 5 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan mainstay Kensuke Kimura qualified for the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet set for this weekend at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.

The 11-year-old gained entry into the competition after meeting rigid qualifying times during the recent Saipan International Meet held last Feb. 29 and March 1 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Athletes and coaches from the Northern Marianas Athletics, meanwhile, learned a thing or two from retired Australian athletics coach Terry West Terry West last week during a series of clinics at the Oleai Sports Center.

In PXC XIV: Evolution held last March 7 at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao, Jayson Tarkong and Leery Sablan encountered mixed fortunes as the former won his match against John Ogo, while the latter lost to Guam's Thomas as "The Saint" Calvo.

Terry Tudela, for her part, won the CNMI Women's Golf Association March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 8 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort after finishing with a net score of 74.

The week also saw the continuation of games in the SBA Open 8-Ball League, 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League, 2007-2008 HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, 2008 Elementary Fast-pitch Softball League, and 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League. Games in the Saipan Little League Baseball Association were called off for a second weekend because of scheduling problems.



MARK RABAGO

Renata Bucher of Switzerland finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run off-road race in 3:12:46.



MARK RABAGO

Australia's Andrew Noble won his first-ever Xterra Saipan championship after a blistering time of two hours, 46 minutes, and 51 seconds.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

7th Xterra Saipan men's champion Andrew Noble, right, of Australia, shakes hands with women's winner and four-time titlist Renata Bucher of Switzerland after they completed the course last March 8 at the American Memorial Park.



JON PEREZ

The Grace Christian Academy Eagles celebrate their victory in the boys division of the Private School League's Junior Varsity Basketball League after beating the Mt. Carmel School Knights at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fledgling CNMI Women's Golf Association held its March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 8 with 13 of the island's female golfers taking part in it.



JON PEREZ

Saipan International School Geckos coach Rebecca Newman joins her team for a group photo after winning the girls junior varsity crown in last week's finals in the Private School League's Junior Varsity Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ

Oleai pitcher Judy Rose Ngirbabul throws at the plate in their game against Koblerville last Wednesday in the 2nd Annual Elementary School Fast-pitch Softball League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kensuke Kimura in an action at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan member recently qualified for the Tokyo Junior Sprint Swim Meet set for this weekend at the Tatsumi International Swimming Stadium in Tokyo, Japan.



Vijay Singh seizes control at Bay Hill

Vijay Singh was forced to take four days off from practicing, which was unprecedented. He found himself atop the leaderboard one week later at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, which is not surprising in the least.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008



The race that almost never happened

The 7th Xterra Saipan Championship dominated sports headlines last week as Australia's Andrew Noble and Switzerland's Renata Bucher topped the multi-sport event that was scrapped then revived again last year.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Noble defends, first for Bucher in Tagaman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Aussie Andrew Noble withstood the gallant stand of a returning opponent to successfully defend his title, while Renata Bucher of Switzerland finally won her first crown in the 19th Tagaman Triathlon yesterday at American Memorial Park.

"I had a good swim but I was surprised with [Masayuki Matsumaru]. He was very fast on the bike. He overtook me halfway in the bike but I caught him after two kilometers in

the run," said Noble after crossing the finish line.

Noble

completed the race in two hours, 54 minutes, and 25 seconds, shaving off 25 seconds to his last year's time of 2:54:25, while Bucher logged in a combined time of 3:25:34 in her first Tagaman win.

Bucher, meanwhile, was just happy and relieved for finally winning her first Tagaman title after a third try. "I feel happy for finally winning. Tagaman has always been a big challenge and special for me since I am much better on the hills. I like the hills since I grew up in the mountains."

More than 60 participants started



JON PEREZ

Australia's Andrew Noble, left, and Renata Bucher of Switzerland cross the finish line in separate times after conquering the 19th Tagaman Triathlon yesterday at the American Memorial Park. Noble successfully won his second straight title, while Bucher won it for the first time.

the day with a 2-kilometer swim off the Pacific Islands Club beach, swimming around the lagoon before heading toward the PIC parking lot where the transition area for the 60-km bike leg was located in Saipan's

longest-running triathlon event.

The bike portion took participants from Koblerville to Bird Island before heading down to Micro Beach at American Memorial Park where they moved into the 15-km run from AMP

to Oleai Beach right across from the Microl intersection in San Jose.

Noble was the second out of the swim leg, after relay participant and Swimming Center Tsuanami Saipan

See NOBLE on Page 26

Marquez has no regrets about difficult odyssey between bouts with Pacquiao

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING LAS VEGAS (AP)—Juan Manuel Marquez's path to a rematch with Manny Pacquiao stretched from Indonesia to the side of a Mexican volcano, stopping at two-bit fights and disappointing decisions before winding back to Las Vegas.

Nearly four years later, Marquez still wouldn't change a thing about his strange odyssey. After all, not many easy roads run out of the toughest barrios in Mexico City.

"I don't regret anything," Marquez said. "It was a great experience. Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Marquez (48-3-1, 35 KOs) and Pacquiao (45-3-2, 34 KOs) fought to an acclaimed draw in May 2004, and two of boxing's most gifted combatants are back together on Saturday at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in a match for Marquez's WBC 130-

See MARQUEZ on Page 26



Champion Juan Manuel Marquez, left, of Mexico, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during the weigh-in Friday, March 14, 2008, in Las Vegas.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Coldeon is a longtime sports journalist in the CNMI and is the news and sports director of the Flame Tree Network.



March forward

For many diehard couch potato sports fans, the year has two seasons: 1) football 2) waiting for football.

Television sports dies in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl when the time clock shows zeroes.

The month of February is spent in mourning. Men do chores around the house that have been neglected since the end of August when college and pro football started, and spend more time with family, doing things instead of acting like a house plant in front of the flat screen.

March marches in and suddenly TV sports become interesting again, with the NCAA basketball tournament second only behind the Super Bowl, in my opinion, in terms of what I call *televability*, or the ability of the television to excite the viewer, preferably with libation.

Last week in the women's Mountain West conference tournament, Colorado St., which went 0-16 in conference play, beat Utah which went 16-0 in conference play. That's the upset of the year, decade, maybe of all time. Until next week when the men's tournament of 65 begins.

Who will be the men's 2008 champion? Well, I correctly predicted the last two champions. Did you know: In 2006 ESPN tournament challenge, out of three million players, I finished in the top 99.99 percent. Of course, I pick Florida every year and have been only right the last two seasons. But not this year. It's time for us Gators to let others share in the glory of championships. Gators are magnanimous in that way, but you probably knew that already.

Who cares about an NBA game in November? The slam dunk contest is really the opening of the season. Now games are important and we must watch them.

One comment about the Pau Gasol trade from the Grizzlies to the Lakers: it would never fly in a fantasy league as owners would not approve of such a lopsided trade. In this case, reality fulfilled a fantasy wish for the Lakers.

Spring baseball springs eternal hope. For some fans, life isn't normal without baseball. The major league season lasts seven months. Some marriages don't last that long.

I loved watching the Rays (not Devil Rays anymore) battle the Yankees last week, with high flying spikes, intentionally hit batters, bruising slides, and on field rushes, devilish play indeed. Now that's what I call exhibition baseball. Ah, the Grapefruit League. I love it.

March means television sports are back and I won't have time to paint the house until next year, probably February.